

FIRST FOR US HIGH COURT

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will officiate at a same-sex wedding this weekend in what is believed to be a first for a member of America's highest court.



Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg poses for a photo in her chambers at the Supreme Court in Washington, before an interview with the Associated Press.

(AP Photo/C. Dharapak)

Ginsburg will officiate Saturday at the marriage of Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser and John Roberts, a government economist.

"Michael Kaiser is a friend and someone I much admire," Ginsburg said in a written statement Friday. "That is why I am officiating at his wedding."

The private ceremony will take place at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, a national memorial to President John F. Kennedy. The 80-year-old Ginsburg, an opera lover, is a frequent guest at the center.

Same-sex marriage is legal in the District of Columbia and 13 U.S. states.

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WAITING TO EXHALE

President Barack Obama pauses after answering questions from members of the media during his meeting with Baltic leaders in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Aug. 30, 2013. Speaking about Syria, the president said he hasn't made a final decision about a military strike against Syria. But he says he's considering a limited and narrow action in response to a chemical weapons attack that he says Syria's government carried out last week.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

World awaits possible US strike against Syria

DAVID ESPO
ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Edging toward a punitive strike against Syria, President Barack Obama said Friday he is weighing "limited and narrow" action as the administration bluntly accused Bashar Assad's government of launching a chemical weapons attack that killed at least 1,429 people — far more than previous estimates — including more than 400 chil-

dren. No "boots on the ground," Obama said, seeking to reassure Americans weary after a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. With France as his only major public ally, Obama told reporters he has a strong preference for multilateral action. He added, "Frankly, part of the challenge we end up with here is a lot of people think something should be done but nobody wants to do it."

Halfway around the world, U.S. warships were in place in the Mediterranean Sea. They carried cruise missiles, long a first-line weapon of choice for presidents because they can find a target hundreds of miles distant without need of air cover or troops on the ground. In what appeared increasingly like the pre-attack endgame, U.N. personnel dispatched to Syria carried out a fourth and final day of inspection as they sought

to determine precisely what happened in last week's attack. The international contingent arranged to depart on Saturday and head to laboratories in Europe with the samples they have collected. Video said to be taken at the scene shows victims writhing in pain, twitching and exhibiting other symptoms associated with exposure to nerve agents.

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NATO head: No plan for alliance action for Syria

JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press
COPENHAGEN, Denmark
(AP) — NATO's chief said for the first time Friday that the alliance has no plans for military action in Syria because of the alleged use of chemical weapons against its civilians.

Asked about the alleged deadly attack in a suburb of Damascus on Aug. 21, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen pointed the finger at Syrian forces.

"It demands cynicism beyond what is reasonable to believe that the opposition is behind a chemical attack in an area it already largely controls," he said.

On Wednesday, Fogh Rasmussen said, "Any use of such weapons is unacceptable and cannot go unanswered."

"Those responsible must be held accountable."

But on Friday he told reporters in Denmark that NATO has no plans to intervene in Syria, which would require the approval of all 28 of its members.

Supporters of a proposed no-fly zone in Syria have pointed to the one that was established by NATO over Libya in 2011.

It overwhelmed Moammar Gadhafi's air defenses and attacked tanks and military vehicles that threatened civilians.

NATO's top decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council, struggled for days to reach an agreement on using its military command and control capability to coordinate the operation in Libya, and the governments of the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Turkey helped coordinate that breakthrough.

But no such cooperation is emerging regarding Syria's civil war. Backing the Obama administration, French President François Hollande offered strong support on Friday for international military action against the Syrian government over evidence of chemical munitions' use in the Syrian civil war. □

World awaits possible US strike against Syria

Continued from Front

The videos distributed by activists to support their claims of a chemical attack were consistent with Associated Press reporting of shelling in the suburbs of Damascus at the time, though it was not known if the victims had died from a poisonous gas attack.

The Syrian government said administration claims were "flagrant lies" akin to faulty Bush administration assertions before the Iraq

Obama met with his national security aides at the White House and then with diplomats from Baltic countries, saying he has not yet made a final decision on a response to the attack.

But the administration did nothing to discourage the predictions that he would act — and soon. It was an impression heightened both by strongly worded remarks from Secretary of State John Kerry and the release of an unclassified intelligence assessment that cited "high confi-

excess of an estimate from Doctors Without Borders. Not surprisingly — given the nature of the disclosure — it also did not say expressly how the United States knew what one Syrian official had allegedly said to another.

Mindful of public opinion, Kerry urged Americans to read the four-page assessment for themselves. He referred to Iraq — when Bush administration assurances that weapons of mass destruction were present proved false, and a U.S. in-

support, French President François Hollande was an exception.

The two men spoke by phone, then Hollande issued a statement saying they had "agreed that the international community cannot tolerate the use of chemical weapons, that it must hold the Syrian regime responsible and send a strong message to denounce the use of (such) arms."

The day's events produced sharply differing responses from members of Congress



Secretary of State John Kerry makes a statement about Syria at the State Department in Washington, Friday, Aug. 30, 2013. Kerry said the U.S. knows, based on intelligence, that the Syrian regime carefully prepared for days to launch a chemical weapons attack.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

invasion that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

A Foreign Ministry statement read on state TV said that "under the pretext of protecting the Syrian people, they are making a case for an aggression that will kill hundreds of innocent Syrian civilians."

Residents of Damascus stocked up on food and other necessities in anticipation of strikes, with no evident sign of panic. One man, 42-year-old Talal Dawayih, said: "I am not afraid from the Western threats to Syria; they created the chemical issue as a pretext for intervention, and they are trying to hit Syria for the sake of Israel."

dence" that the Syrian government carried out the attack.

In addition to the dead, the assessment reported that about 3,600 patients "displaying symptoms consistent with nerve agent exposure" were seen at Damascus-area hospitals after the attack.

To that, Kerry added that "a senior regime official who knew about the attack confirmed that chemical weapons were used by the regime, reviewed the impact and actually was afraid they would be discovered." He added for emphasis: "We know this." The assessment did not explain its unexpectedly large casualty count, far in

vasion led to a long, deadly war. Kerry said this time it will be different.

"We will not repeat that moment," he said.

Citing an imperative to act, the nation's top diplomat said "it is directly related to our credibility and whether countries still believe the United States when it says something. They are watching to see if Syria can get away with it because then maybe they, too, can put the world at greater risk."

The president said firmly that the attack "threatens our national security interest by violating well-established international norms." While Obama was having trouble enlisting foreign

— and that was just the Republicans.

Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said Obama needed to go further than he seems planning.

"The goal of military action should be to shift the balance of power on the battlefield against Assad and his forces," they said in a statement.

But a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, Brendan Buck, said if the president believes in a military response to Syria, "it is his responsibility to explain to Congress and the American people the objectives, strategy, and legal basis for any potential action." □

Moderate rises in U.S. gasoline prices expected

CLIFFORD KRAUSS

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HOUSTON - With all the saber-rattling surrounding Syria and the spike in oil prices over the last week, gasoline prices rose 2 cents a gallon for a second day in a row Friday as motorists began to fill their tanks for the Labor Day weekend.

But energy experts say a major jump is unlikely for the 29.2 million Americans whom AAA expects to travel 50 miles or more on the road this weekend - up from 28 million last year - despite the summer of unrest across the Middle East and North Africa.

In fact Americans will pay considerably less for gasoline than they did last Labor Day weekend, when refinery shutdowns and Hurricane Isaac, which hit the Gulf of Mexico coast, heightened fears of gasoline shortages. "Gasoline prices are going to be surprisingly temperate," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at GasBuddy.com. "In California drivers will be spending 30 to 40 cents less than last Labor Day weekend for a gallon of regular and much of the rest of the country will be between 5 and 15 cents lower than last year." According to the AAA daily fuel gauge report, the national average price of a gallon of regular gasoline Friday was just over \$3.58, still only 5 cents higher than a week ago and 4 cents cheaper than a month ago. Gasoline prices are just beginning to catch up with the rise in global crude oil prices, which had climbed roughly \$6 a barrel in just a few days as the United States and allies prepared to attack Syria. Oil experts say gasoline prices could rise as much as 10 cents a gallon over the next week or two, as higher oil prices gradually push up wholesale and retail prices. But few expect a big, lasting jump unless there is a major expansion of conflict across the Middle East that seriously threatens oil production and shipments. □

Rival attacks Brooklyn prosecutor over conviction rate

VIVIAN YEE

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NEW YORK - Charles J. Hynes, who is running for a seventh term as Brooklyn district attorney, has a long record to scrutinize, and his opponent in the Sept. 10 Democratic primary, Kenneth P. Thompson, has seized on one statistic that has barely improved since Hynes took office: his felony conviction rate.

Hynes' prosecutors recorded a felony conviction rate - which includes both guilty pleas and convictions at trial - of 58 percent last year, according to city statistics. The year before, the Brooklyn rate was 55 percent, the lowest in the city. In Hynes' first year, the rate was 56 percent.

Thompson's campaign has added these numbers to his other criticisms of Hynes' performance, including how he has handled allegations of sexual abuse in the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, and how his office prosecuted dozens of murder cases built by

a police detective whose tactics are now under review. "If Mr. Hynes spent less time playing politics and more time keeping our streets safe in the face of rising violent crime, his office's reputation wouldn't

average of the previous two years' rates.

Among defense lawyers and other observers of Brooklyn's criminal justice system, Hynes' record in the courtroom is more nuanced. Hynes' office has



Charles Hynes, who is running for a seventh term as Brooklyn district attorney, during a news conference at the New York City Police Department headquarters in New York. Hynes has a long record to scrutinize, and his opponent in the Sept. 10 Democratic primary, Kenneth Thompson, has seized on one statistic that has barely improved since Mr. Hynes took office: his felony conviction rate.

(Michael Kirby Smith/The New York Times)

be tarnished by prosecutorial misconduct or the lowest felony conviction rate in the city," said James Freedland, Thompson's campaign spokesman. He said he was referring to the

acquired a nationwide reputation for innovation, for progressive programs that have kept low-level offenders out of prison, and thus might drag down his statistics.

District attorneys across the country have resisted the use of conviction rates as a measure of success, Scott Burns, executive director of the National District Attorneys Association, said. Hynes, who sits on the association's board, is at the forefront of that resistance. He and his deputies argue that he has pursued a holistic, humane view of justice that is not reflected in his conviction rates.

Hynes and his deputies said that he favored dismissing charges or reducing felony to misdemeanor charges in some cases to avoid saddling low-level offenders with criminal records that could later prevent them from getting jobs, and that he had diverted thousands of offenders to drug and mental health treatment programs rather than try to send them to prison. City statistics show that Brooklyn sent 565 new felony and misdemeanor cases to drug treatment courts last year, far more than any other borough. □

Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg to officiate at gay wedding

Continued from Front

"I think it will be one more statement that people who love each other and want to live together should be able to enjoy the blessings and the strife in the marriage relationship," Ginsburg told The Washington Post in an interview.

Kaiser told The Associated Press that he asked Ginsburg to officiate because she is a longtime friend.

"It's very meaningful mostly to have a friend officiate, and then for someone of her stature, it's a very big honor," Kaiser said. "I think that everything that's going on that makes same-sex marriage possible and visible helps to encourage others and to make the issue seem less of an issue, to make it just more part of life."

Justices generally avoid taking stands on political issues.

The wedding, though, comes after the court's landmark ruling in June to



Michael M. Kaiser, president of Kennedy Center, at the Al-Kasaba theatre and cinematheque in Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine. Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will officiate at a same-sex wedding on Saturday, Aug. 31, 2013, in what is believed to be a first for a member of the nation's highest court. Ginsburg will officiate at the marriage of Kaiser and John Roberts, a government economist. Kaiser told The Associated Press he asked Ginsburg to officiate because she is a longtime friend.

(AP Photo/Ilan Mizrahi)

expand federal recognition of same-sex marriages, striking down part of an anti-gay marriage law.

While hearing arguments in the case in March, Ginsburg argued for treating marriages equally. The rights as-

sociated with marriage are pervasive, she said, and the law had created two classes of marriage. □

Clinton tops Obama in gifts from foreign leaders

ANDREW MIGA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton outpaced President Barack Obama last year in receiving lavish gifts from foreign leaders.

Clinton received gold jewelry worth half a million dollars from King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. The State Department said the gift included a necklace bracelet, ring and earrings. The white gold was adorned with tear-drop rubies and diamonds. Clinton also got gold, sapphire and diamond jewelry worth \$58,000 from Brunei's queen.

Obama's most expensive gift was a \$16,500 gold-plated clock from Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, the Saudi defense minister.

Obama, a big sports fan, scored a red, white and blue basketball from — and

autographed by — Chinese President President Xi Jinping. British Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife, Samantha, gave Obama a customized Dun-



In this June 27, 2012 file-pool photo, then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton receives a gift from Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja at the Government Banquet Hall in Helsinki, Finland. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

lop table tennis table with United States and United Kingdom decals and pad-

artwork and other items given to the Obama family and top U.S. officials in 2012, according to the department's Office of Protocol, which catalogs the gifts and publishes an annual listing.

But don't look for Clinton or Obama to pocket the gifts. Under law, most of them must go to the National Archives or General Services Administration, unless recipients reimburse the U.S. Treasury for them.

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny gave Obama a package of gifts worth \$7,246.19 that included a certificate of Obama's Irish heritage, two silver shamrock charm bracelets and a lamb's wool scarf and blanket.

Myanmar President Thein Sein offered gifts of jewelry for the first lady, Michelle Obama, and the Obama daughters, Malia and Sasha. The first lady was given a \$4,200 pearl necklace

with a gold and diamond clasp. The Obama daughters received two flower brooches of pearl, diamond and gold valued at \$4,440.

Britain's Samantha Cameron gave the first lady a cashmere scarf by J. Saunders worth \$480.

There were gifts that could be consumed and those from display.

Clinton got \$560 worth of cognac from Russian President Vladimir Putin. Obama received a saber with a 34-inch blade and a silver filigree handle from Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj.

Vice President Joe Biden got a silver knife and chopsticks with silver ends from Mongolia's prime minister and a female bare-breasted bust from Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The gift list published in the Federal Register also included a present Obama received back in 2009. □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Georgia: Teen guilty of murdering baby in stroller

KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

MARIETTA, Georgia (AP)

— An 18-year-old man was convicted of murder in the shooting of a baby who was riding in a stroller alongside his mom in a town in coastal Georgia. Jurors deliberated about two hours before finding De'Marquise Elkins guilty of 11 counts, including two counts of felony murder and one count of malice murder in the March 21 killing of 13-month-old Antonio Santiago in Brunswick. The man's mother, Karimah Elkins, was on trial alongside him and was found guilty of tampering with evidence but acquitted of lying to police. De'Marquise Elkins faces life in prison. At the time of the shooting he was 17, too young to face the death penalty under Georgia law. Sherry West testified that she was walking home from the post office with her son the morning of the killing. A gunman demanding her purse, shot her in the leg and shot her baby in the face after she told him she had no money, she said.

Prosecutors said De'Marquise Elkins and an accomplice, 15-year-old Dominique Lang, are the ones who stopped West. Prosecutors say the older teen pointed a small .22-caliber revolver at West and demanded money. When West refused several times to turn over the money, Elkins fired a warning shot, shot the woman in the leg and the baby between the eyes, prosecutors said.

The killing in the port city of Brunswick drew national attention, and the trial was moved to the Atlanta suburb of Marietta owing to

extensive publicity locally. Prosecutors have said information from Elkins' mother and sister led investigators to a pond where they found the revolver. Elkins' sister also was charged with evidence tampering. Lang, who was a key prosecution witness in Elkins' trial, is set to go to trial at a later date. De'Marquise Elkins' attorney asked for bond for his client while they appealed, which the judge denied.

The defense tried throughout the trial to prove that the investigation was flawed and that police refused to consider other leads or investigate further once they had Elkins in custody the day after the killing.

The prosecution's witnesses — many with a criminal history and some drug users — lied repeatedly and changed their stories throughout the investigation, Lockwood said. The defense also said several law enforcement agents backtracked in their testimony to make sure what they were saying fit the state's version of the story. The baby's mother, Sherry

West, made different identifications of the suspect and behaved strangely after the shooting, occasionally joking and laughing while being questioned by police and making other bizarre statements, Lockwood said. The baby's father, Louis Santiago, was in the vicinity when the shooting happened and showed no warmth toward the child's mother afterward, Lockwood said.

Lang testified that Elkins is the one who asked West for money and fired the shots, but admitted lying repeatedly, Lockwood said. And Lang's cousin, Joe Lang, was in the area on the day of the shooting and fits the description of the shooter.

But police never really investigated the baby's parents or the Lang cousins, Lockwood said.

The defense had strongly suggested in pretrial motions that the baby's parents were the killers. Lead defense attorney Kevin Gough, a public defender, made several suggestions to the same effect during the trial. But much of his questioning that seemed



De'Marquise Elkins appears in court in Marietta, Ga., Friday, Aug. 30, 2013. Jurors deliberated about two hours before finding Elkins guilty of 11 counts, including two counts of felony murder and one count of malice murder in the March 21 killing of 13-month-old Antonio Santiago in Brunswick.

(AP Photo/Johnny Crawford)

to be heading in that direction — including attempts to bring up details about the backgrounds of both of the baby's parents — was blocked by the judge after the prosecu-

tion objected.

Prosecutors said the defense presented a lot of theories and speculation but that the evidence and facts in the case proved Elkins' guilt. □

Ex-church janitor pleads guilty to lewd proposal

J. JUOZAPAVICIUS

Associated Press

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP)

— An ex-janitor at a 17,000-member Tulsa megachurch pleaded guilty Friday to making a lewd proposal to a 14-year-old girl, less than a week before his trial was set to begin.

Israel Castillo, an ex-janitor at the 600-employee Victory Christian Center in south Tulsa, pleaded guilty to a charge alleging he sent lewd Facebook messages to a 14-year-old girl.

Up until Friday, Castillo had repeatedly pleaded not guilty, saying that he did not know the girl who received the messages was underage — a claim refuted by prosecutors.

Castillo's case was part of a scandal involving the megachurch that broke last summer. Five Victory employees — including the son and daughter-in-law of ministry co-founder and head pastor Sharon Daugherty — were charged with waiting two weeks to report the rape

of a 13-year-old girl to authorities. Another ex-janitor, Chris Denman, was sentenced to 55 years in prison last December for the 13-year-old's rape in a ministry stairwell and other sex crimes.

Castillo, who has been free on bond pending trial, faces up to 20 years in prison, and the judge ordered that the 24-year-old be immediately taken into custody.

Sharon Daugherty, whose sermons are beamed to 200 countries from the min-

istry's south Tulsa location, declined to comment on Castillo's plea Friday.

Besides the Castillo sentencing in October, the only piece remaining in the Victory scandal is a civil claim brought last September by the mother of the 13-year-old rape victim. The mother alleges the church was more worried about damage control than the well-being of her daughter — an argument the ministry denies. That case is set for a January jury trial. □

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San Diego:

Mayor Filner keeps a low profile on final day

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Mayor Bob Filner was true to his reputation as a workaholic during most of his brief tenure at City Hall.

Followers adopted a Twitter hashtag — #filnereverywhere — to chronicle his nonstop pace riding a

immediately respond to messages seeking comment on his whereabouts. Employees in the City Hall lobby said they hadn't seen the mayor. An office receptionist had no comment.

Some women who identified themselves as targets of Filner's sexual advances

civil rights activist told the City Council he was the innocent victim of a "lynch mob."

Among the many unanswered questions is how someone who acknowledged mistreating women for many years — but denied sexually harassing them — could have sur-

if not decades, of being shut out," said attorney Cory Briggs. "The speculation on my part ... is that there were an awful lot of people who wanted an audience with the mayor and that provided him with an opportunity."

Two months ago, Briggs joined a former city councilwoman and another longtime supporter to declare Filner unfit for office. Barely a week later, his communications director said he had asked her to work without underwear, demanded kisses and put her in headlocks.

He was, in the end, forced out by those who most embraced his liberal ideals.

Lori Saldana, a former Democratic state assemblywoman, said five or six women she invited to speak at a women's studies class she taught at San Diego State University in 2011 confided they were previously targets of advances that fit a familiar pattern.

As he won elections, Filner, 70, also won admiration from voters for his work ethic and tenaciousness. He also had a reputation for demeaning employees and lashing out at perceived adversaries.

He was a fastidious boss who paid unusual attention to individual constituent complaints, said Thaddeus Hoffmeister, his legislative director from 2004 to 2007. Getting yelled at was a "rite of passage."

Filner's world began to unravel at a June 20 staff meeting when his deputy chief of staff, Allen Jones, and his communications director, Irene McCormack Jackson, confronted him over his behavior and quit. □

Firefighters say making progress in Yosemite fire

GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

FRESNO, California (AP) — Nearly a third of a huge forest fire burning in and around Yosemite National Park was contained Friday and some small communities in the area were no longer under evacuation advisories.

Nearly 5,000 firefighters were battling the blaze, but in another sign of progress some were expected to be released to go home, said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"We continue to gain the upper hand, but there's still a lot of work to be done," he said.

The 2-week-old blaze burning in the Sierra Nevada northeast of Fresno has scorched 315 square miles (815 sq. kilometers) of brush, oaks and pine, making it the largest U.S. wildfire to date this year and the fifth largest wildfire in modern California records. Containment was estimated at 32 percent.

Evacuation advisories were lifted Thursday in three towns but remained in place for other communities, and evacuations were still mandatory along the fire's southeastern edge.

About 75 square miles (190 sq. kilometers) of the fire are inside Yosemite but at some distance from the national park's major attractions, including glacially carved Yosemite Valley's granite monoliths and towering waterfalls.

Park officials expect about 3,000 cars a day to pass through gates during the long Labor Day national holiday weekend instead of the nearly 5,000 that might typically show. □



Attorney Gloria Allred speaks during a press conference with Katherine Ragazzino, second right, and sexual assault victims Peggy Shannon, left, and Michelle Tyler, right, at a hotel on Friday, Aug. 30, 2013, in San Diego. The conference celebrated the San Diego Mayor Bob Filner's last day in office after he resigned because of allegations of sexual harassment.

(AP Photo/Sandy Huffaker)

bicycle to school with children, crashing the podium at the city attorney's news conference to denounce the speaker's positions, and marching to protest violence against women.

Filner, however, has turned into a virtual no-show since allegations surfaced last month that he sexually harassed women and culminated in his resignation less than nine months into his four-year term. He kept the low profile on Friday — his final day in office.

The former 10-term congressman had no public appearances scheduled on his last day. His spokeswoman, Lena Lewis, didn't

held a mock celebration to mark his last day in office. Attorney Gloria Allred was flanked by her clients as she displayed what she called parting gifts for Filner.

She showed off a hand-held mirror that she said Filner can look at when asking himself who's to blame for his resignation, and a wallet-sized card containing California's legal definition of sexual harassment.

Filner, a Democrat, leaves office after bowing to enormous pressure from local and national leaders in his own political party. In a defiant farewell speech last week, the onetime

vived for so long in politics. Only he and perhaps a small circle of advisers know how his behavior went undetected, and they aren't talking.

Those who know him say he may have been more easily exposed as the leader of the nation's eighth-largest city than as a congressman further from the spotlight. His behavior also may have deteriorated after being elected the city's first Democratic mayor in 20 years.

"There was a flood of community members who now felt welcome at City Hall, who felt welcome in the mayor's office after years,



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US Financial Front:

Ford to make Fusion in American plant for first time

DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

FLAT ROCK, Michigan (AP) — For the first time, Ford is making its Fusion sedan in the U.S.

The company's Flat Rock, Michigan, plant began making the Fusion on Thursday. The plant, which is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Detroit, made the Ford Mustang sports car before getting a second shift of 1,400 workers to make the Fusion. The plant now has 3,100 workers.

Ford Motor Co. had been making around 250,000 Fusions each year at its plant in Hermosillo, Mexico. But that wasn't keeping up with

demand for the hot-selling midsize sedan, which was revamped last year. Sales this year are up 13 percent to 181,668 through July, making the Fusion one of the best-selling cars in the country.

"We could have sold more if we had more," Joe Hinrichs, Ford's president of the Americas, told a cheering crowd of workers at the plant.

With the production at Flat Rock, Ford will be able to make 350,000 Fusions each year. Hinrichs said the cars being made Thursday would likely be sold within two weeks, a much faster rate than the 60-day aver-

age for the industry.

The Flat Rock plant was built by Mazda Motor Co. in 1987 and became a joint venture with Ford in 1992. When Ford and Mazda severed ties in 2010, the fate of the Flat Rock plant was uncertain.

"This very location was on the chopping block. We didn't even know if it was going to stay open," said Jimmy Settles, the chief Ford negotiator for the United Auto Workers union. During contract talks with the UAW in 2011, Ford agreed to bring Fusion production to Flat Rock. While Ford will have to pay U.S. workers more compared with Mexico, where workers make \$2 to \$3 an hour,



Jimmy Settles, UAW vice president, left, shakes hands with Joe Hinrichs, Ford president of the Americas, over a new 2014 Ford Fusion in Flatrock, Mich. on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013. For the first time, Ford is making its Fusion sedan in the U.S. The company's Flat Rock, Mich., plant began making the Fusion on Thursday.

(AP Photo/Charles V. Tines)

the wage difference isn't as high as it once was. In 2007, the UAW agreed that new hires could be paid at half the rate as veteran workers. □

US economy grew at 2.5 percent rate in spring

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a 2.5 percent annualized rate from April through June, much faster than previously estimated. The steep revision was largely because U.S. companies exported more goods and imports declined.

The Commerce Department said second-quarter growth was sharply higher than the initial 1.7 percent rate it reported last month. And the growth this spring was more than double the 1.1 percent rate from January through March.

The improvement in the trade deficit helped offset a weaker government spending. Economists expect growth will stay at an annual rate of around 2.5 percent in the second half of the year, helped by steady job gains and less drag from federal spend-

ing cuts. Still, some say higher interest rates might restrain the economy's expansion in the second half. Rates could rise even further if the Federal Reserve decides to reduce its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases at its September meeting.

The Fed will consider the stronger second-quarter growth when making a decision next month. The bond purchases have helped keep long-term borrowing rates low. Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said stronger growth in the second quarter "should give Fed officials more confidence that the recovery is gathering steam as the fiscal drag begins to fade." He said the Fed is now more likely to slow the bond purchases in September, although that decision depends heavily on the August employment report. □



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UK's Cameron must regroup after historic setback

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — David Cameron seemed the picture of a confident national leader when he cut short his vacation early this week to muster support for a military reprisal against Syria for its purported use of chemical weapons against civilians. He stood with President Barack Obama, facing down a dictator, demanding respect for international law. By Friday, the prime minister had been laid low by domestic politics, having grievously misread the British appetite for another adventure in the Middle East after the bloody, inconclusive engagements in Afghanistan and, particularly, Iraq, where the British public felt misled and rushed to war by faulty intelligence linking Saddam Hussein to weapons of mass destruction.

A humbled Cameron now finds himself rebuked by Parliament — a setback so



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street in London, Friday, Aug. 30 2013. Cameron lost a vote endorsing military action against Syria by 13 votes Thursday, a stunning defeat that will almost guarantee that Britain plays no direct role in any U.S. attack on Bashar Assad's government.

(AP Photo / Lewis Whyld)

rare that some historians say they have to look back more than two centuries to find a similar defeat over a vital matter of war and peace.

George Jones, professor emeritus of government at the London School of Economics, compares the House of Commons' decision about Syria to its vote in 1782 to have British forces call it quits during the American Revolution.

"The last time the government was knocked off course by Parliament like this was in the 1780s when Parliament accepted that we'd lost the war of American independence and gave up America, so this is a pretty important event," said Jones. "If the government can't get through its policy of war and peace, it's an issue of confidence. Its competence has been shattered."

Jones said the crisis engulfing Cameron is of the prime minister's own making because the Conservative Party leader chose to recall Parliament from its summer recess to seek authorization for a military strike.

Cameron quickly lowered his sights, however, when opposition Labour Party leader Ed Miliband refused to back the measure unless the United Nations Security Council first authorized an attack on Syria. Cameron agreed to ask Parliament only to agree to military strikes in principle and promised to seek a second vote before taking action, but even that watered down version was defeated.

"Cameron has been rowing back frantically as he saw there wasn't support for his position, within his own party, in the opposi-

tion, and above all in public opinion," Jones said. "Polls show the British public was not supportive, and the MPs were getting that message from their constituents. The only sure result is that the standing of Miliband rises."

Miliband has not been seen by many as a forceful figure as the leader of the opposition since besting his brother David in a leadership contest in 2010, but he was effective this week in bringing the government's military plans in line with public opinion.

He seemed more attuned than Cameron to acute public doubts about government claims that developed a decade ago when Prime Minister Tony Blair's intelligence-backed assertions that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction during the run-up to the Iraq war proved hollow.

When Cameron's government released intelligence reports on Thursday indicating it was "highly likely" that the Syrian regime of President Bashar Assad was responsible for the lethal chemical attack that independent groups believe killed about 355 civilians, the evidence seemed unconvincing to many legislators who said Britain should wait until U.N. inspectors report their findings. On Friday, Downing Street said Cameron explained to President Barack Obama in a phone call that he wanted to build a "consensual approach in Britain" regarding Syria, and that the government had accepted Parliament's clear rejection of British military action. Obama "fully respected" Cameron's approach, a statement said. □



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Egypt's Brotherhood shifts tactics amid crackdown

AYA BATRAWY
TONY G. GABRIEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Reeling from a fierce security crackdown, the Muslim Brotherhood brought out only scattered, small crowds Friday in its latest protests of Egypt's military coup. While the remnants of the Brotherhood's leadership are still able to exhibit strong coordination from underground, the arrests of thousands of its supporters and members — and the fear of more bloodshed — have weakened its ability to mobilize the streets. The day's largest single demonstration was a little more than 10,000 people outside the presidential palace in Cairo, with dozens of gatherings of about 100 protesters or fewer in multiple sites around the capital and the provinces. It was an intentional shift in tactics from a week ago, when the group failed to rally in a single location as a show of strength.

Security officials dubbed it the "butterfly plan" — a flurry of protests to distract them. Rather than have protests converge in one square and encounter force from police and angry residents, the group appeared to purposely plan hundreds of small marches as another way of continuing demonstrations and avoiding bloodshed, according to security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media. Protest organizers also tried a bit of subterfuge: They said a rally would take place in Sphinx Square in Cairo, but after security forces barricaded the site with barbed wire, tanks and roadblocks, only a few hundred people demonstrated nearby,

and the biggest crowd converged across town at the presidential palace. Tens of thousands heeded the Brotherhood's call nationwide for a day of "decisiveness," in which the group urged people to "break your fear, break the coup." They marched defiantly past tanks and armored vehicles on the streets of Cairo and other major cities.

More than 1,300 people, most of them Brotherhood supporters, have been killed since President Mohammed Morsi, a long-time leader in the group, was ousted in a popularly backed coup July 3. Violence peaked two weeks ago when security forces attacked two Brotherhood-led sit-ins, killing more than 600 people in the assaults. More than 100 policemen and soldiers have been killed since the Aug. 14 raids. Police stations, government build-

ings and churches also have been attacked.

"When it started, it was only about the return of Morsi to power," said 18-year-old protester Ahmed Osama,

who says he lost friends in the recent violence and that his brother was shot. "Now it has gone past that. Blood has been shed."

He said that despite the

arrest of Brotherhood leaders, "We are still here."

The Brotherhood has more than 80 years of experience operating secretly as a banned organization. □



Supporters of Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi, run for cover from tear gas fired by police, not seen, during a protest in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Aug. 30, 2013.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

North Korea rescinds permission for U.S. envoy visit

CHOE SANG-HUN
© 2013 New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has rescinded its invitation for a senior U.S. diplomat to travel to Pyongyang on a mission to secure the release of an American Christian missionary imprisoned on charges of committing hostile acts against the government, the State Department said Friday.

The diplomat, Robert King, Washington's ambassador for North Korean human rights issues, had been scheduled to fly from Tokyo to Pyongyang on Saturday. The State Department had earlier said that King intended to request a pardon and amnesty for the missionary, Kenneth Bae, a Korean-American from

Washington state.

"We are surprised and disappointed by North Korea's decision" to revoke the invitation, a State Department spokeswoman, Marie Harf, said in a statement. "We have sought clarification from the DPRK about its decision and have made every effort so that Ambassador King's trip could continue as planned or take place at a later date."

The DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It remained unclear why North Korea had retracted its invitation. The State Department statement said King planned to return to Washington on Saturday. Bae, 45, has been held in

North Korea since November, when he entered the isolated country with a group of visitors. He was a missionary trying to build a covert proselytizing operation in Rason, a trading city in northeast North Korea, using a tour business as a front, according to a videotaped sermon he gave at a St. Louis church in 2011.

North Korea officially says it guarantees religious freedom. But human rights activists have long said that the North suppresses Christianity, imposing harsh penalties, including executions, on citizens convicted of contact with missionaries.

On April 30, North Korea's highest court convicted Bae of committing "hostile

acts" against the country and sent him to a prison camp for 15 years of hard labor. Bae was moved to a hospital in Pyongyang earlier this month because of deteriorating health.

"We remain gravely concerned about Mr. Bae's health, and we continue to urge the DPRK authorities to grant Mr. Bae special amnesty and immediate release on humanitarian grounds," the State Department said.

Bae's relatives in Edmonds, Wash., have been promoting efforts to publicize his incarceration and deteriorating health. Efforts to reach them were not immediately successful. Terri Chung, Bae's sister, did not respond to telephone and email messages. □



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Iraq violence kills 14 as al-Qaida claims responsibility

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi branch of al-Qaida claimed responsibility Friday for a lethal wave of coordinated bombings in the Baghdad area earlier this week, as new attacks killed another 14 in the latest outbreak of violence to hit the country. Friday's deadliest attack struck after nightfall in a Kurdish neighborhood in the ethnically mixed town of Tuz Khormato. Insurgents there set off a non-lethal stun bomb apparently designed to attract a crowd before detonating a real bomb that killed 12 and wounded 10, said the town's police chief, Col. Hussein Ali Rasheed.

Tuz Khormato, a frequent flashpoint for violence, sits in a band of territory contested by Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen about 200 kilometers (130 miles) north of Baghdad. Iraq is facing its deadliest wave of violence since 2008. The spike in bloodshed is raising worries the country is heading back toward the brink of civil war fueled by the country's sectarian and ethnic divisions. Hours earlier, the al-Qaida affiliate in Iraq, known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, posted a message on a militant website taking responsibility for the deadly attacks that rocked the Baghdad area on Wednesday. Coor-



People inspect the site of a car bomb attack at a vegetable market in Baghdad, Iraq.
(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

ordinated car bombings and other violence that day that killed at least 82 people, mostly in Shiite areas of the capital. The group claimed the at-

tacks were a response to the Aug. 19 execution of 17 Sunni prisoners, all but one of them convicted on terrorism-related charges. It said tight security mea-

sures imposed by Iraqi forces failed to stop the attacks, and the group vowed to carry out more attacks against government targets. □

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Steady EU jobless rate, business optimism up

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The number of jobless in Europe fell slightly in July and business optimism rose, according to official data released Friday, adding to the tentative signs that the region's economy is staging a modest comeback. Europe's statistics office said Friday the number of unemployed in the eurozone was down by 15,000 to 19.23 million, marking the second consecutive fall since April 2011. The jobless rate remained at a record of high of 12.1 percent. Meanwhile, an index of European business sentiment rose again on the month while the monthly inflation rate for the 17 nations using the euro decreased.

"The recent improvements are minimal, and the situation is still very fragile," said European Union Employment Commissioner Laszlo Andor. "This is no time for celebration or complacency." The economy of the 17 EU nations that use the euro had been stuck in an 18-month recession to the first quarter of this year as a debt crisis prompted many countries to pursue tough austerity policies that weighed on growth and confidence. The eurozone finally moved out of recession in the second quarter of this year, showing a 0.3 percent increase in annual economic output. In a further upbeat signal for the region's economy, an index tracking economic sentiment increased by

2.7 points to 95.2 in the eurozone and by 3.1 points to 98.1 in the wider EU, marking the fourth consecutive monthly increase in both areas, while reaching a two-year high in the EU. Commerzbank analysts said the index's higher-than-expected increase points to a likely growth rate of 0.5 percent for the third quarter in the eurozone, after a 0.3 percent rise in the April to June period. The monthly unemployment rate again varied widely between some of the bloc's leading economies such as Germany or Austria, with 5.3 percent and 4.8 percent respectively, and crisis-hit southern European nations such as Spain and Greece, where more than one in four people were unemployed. □



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Farmers lift blockades as troops patrol Bogota

VIVIAN SEQUERA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— President Juan Manuel Santos ordered troops onto the Colombian capital's streets Friday after rioting in which at least two people died, and small farmers said they were lifting road blockades elsewhere after 11 days of protests.

Bogota was peaceful on Friday, with no disturbances reported as Santos ordered troops to reinforce police on the streets. No major military mobilization was noted, however.

The violence broke out Thursday afternoon after some 30,000 people, many of them university students, marched in support of the farmers, who have been blocking highways and

staging protests over a variety of issues.

Santos opened talks with the farmers Tuesday and has promised to address their grievances, including erasing import tariffs on fertilizer. The farmers say cheap imports of potatoes, onions and milk are impoverishing them.

On Friday, Santos announced that he had asked government negotiators to return from talks with the farmers in neighboring Boyaca state, though he did not say why. Four hours later, protest leaders said they would no longer block highways but would retain roadside pickets. They proposed resuming talks on Saturday but the government had no immediate response.

Interior Minister Fernando Carillo, one of the government negotiators, lamented Thursday's "vandalism that had nothing to do with

the farmers' movement."

Masked youths began hurling rocks and bricks and fought tear gas-firing riot police, and shattered store

windows. Two men, aged 18 and 24, were killed by gunfire Thursday night in two towns just west of Bogota: Suba and Engativa. The circumstances were not yet clear, said Alfonso Jaramillo, security chief for the capital, a city of 8 million.

The unrest comes amidst peace talks in Cuba between the government and Colombia's main leftist rebel group to end a half-century-old conflict that largely affects remote provinces far from the capital.

Authorities said privately that they believed leftist extremists were involved in Thursday's unrest in the capital and Santos suggested a link. □



Pedestrians walk along a street guarded by soldiers in the Soacha district, southern Bogota, Colombia, Friday, Aug. 30, 2013. President Juan Manuel Santos on Friday ordered troops to patrol the capital following rioting on Thursday.

(AP Photo/Ricardo Mazalan)

Chevron exec says Argentine shale venture worth the risk

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)

— A Chevron Corp. executive says the oil giant is facing risks in its joint venture with Argentina's state-controlled oil company YPF, but considers that worth it for the chance to exploit a huge shale deposit in Patagonia.

Chevron's chief for Latin America and Africa, Ali Moshiri, made the comment at a news conference Thursday, a day after provincial legislators approved the joint venture for exploration in Argentina's

Vaca Muerta field.

The deal will take effect Friday, and the first phase calls for Chevron to invest \$1.24 billion for drilling about 100 wells in the field in Argentina's Neuquen province.

Opposition politicians, environmental groups and others have voiced strong criticism of the deal. Complaints focus mainly on potential environmental problems and the government's refusal to release all of the contract's provisions. □

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Suriname leader's son arrested on US drug charge

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The son of the president of the South American country of Suriname has been arrested on U.S. drug and weapon charges, federal prosecutors said Friday. Dino Bouterse, director of Suriname's anti-terrorism unit, was arrested Thursday in Panama by local authorities and turned over to U.S. agents, said Preet Bharara, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

His arrest comes as his father, Desi Bouterse, himself convicted of drug offenses, hosts the annual UNASUR summit for leaders of South American countries. Officials in Suriname announced Friday that the opening statement by Desi Bouterse would be postponed by several hours.

Local government officials have declined further comment. Dino Bouterse was scheduled to appear in Manhattan federal court on Friday afternoon after being flown to New York late Thursday, officials said. "Bouterse is a significant drug trafficker," said Derek Maltz, special agent-in-charge with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Bouterse faces a U.S. federal indictment alleging he worked with a man identified as Edmund Quincy Muntslag to smuggle cocaine into the United States starting in or about

December 2011. It also charges him with violating firearms laws by brandishing a light anti-tank weapon during the narcotics offense.

The indictment says Bouterse was involved in smuggling a suitcase filled with 10 kilograms (22 pounds)

of Suriname in July 2010. Shortly after his inauguration, Bouterse appointed his son as director of Suriname's Counter Terrorist Unit, drawing heavy criticism from opposition legislators who expressed concern that no legal framework was created for the unit to

erse of fleeing to Curacao to avoid arrest, although his father said Bouterse had traveled there for personal business.

A year later, prosecutors dropped charges, citing a lack of evidence.

Police detained the younger Bouterse again in Sep-



Dino Bouterse, son of Suriname President Desi Bouterse, arrives to a court hearing in Paramaribo, Suriname. A Panamanian and another U.S. officials confirmed Friday, Aug. 30, 2013 the arrest of Dino Bouterse. A U.S. official said Bouterse was arrested Thursday while traveling on a diplomatic passport. The official said he has been indicted in the Southern District of New York on drug and weapons charges, including cocaine trafficking. (AP Photo/Edward Troon)

of cocaine aboard a commercial flight from Suriname to the Caribbean in late July.

Federal prosecutors said Muntslag was arrested Thursday in the Caribbean island of Trinidad.

Bouterse's father is a former coup leader and convicted drug trafficker who was elected president

operate.

In 2011, unit officials were criticized for acting as police officers when they killed two men suspected in several violent crimes.

In August 2002, prosecutors in Suriname charged Dino Bouterse with stealing 50 guns from the government intelligence service. Police at the time accused Bout-

tember 2004 after seizing a large number of assault weapons, ammunition and 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of cocaine from a local auto shop. He was sentenced to eight years in prison in August 2005 after a judge found him guilty of leading a ring that trafficked in cocaine, illegal arms and stolen luxury cars.

Mexico captures alleged Sinaloa cartel lieutenant

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican police captured an alleged former Sinaloa drug cartel lieutenant accused of involvement in the killings of more than 350 people found in various mass graves in 2011, officials said Thursday.

Police in the northern state of Chihuahua detained Mario Nunez, a 39-year-old also known as "M-10," on Wednesday in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, federal security spokesman Eduardo Sanchez said.

Nunez, a former police officer, began working with the Juarez Cartel before joining the rival Sinaloa organization allegedly led by Mexico's most-wanted man, Joaquin Guzman.

The government partially blames Nunez for an upsurge in drug violence that brought shootouts in broad daylight, ambushes of police and kidnappings to Ciudad Juarez, which is across from El Paso, Texas.

U.S. court documents say Guzman, known as "El Chapo," hired Nunez and gave him the job of snatching the smuggling corridors into the U.S. from the local Juarez Cartel, through ordering gangs of hit men to carry out killings that included grisly mutilations and decapitations.

The Juarez Cartel lost ground to the Sinaloa organization in a three-year battle that wound down in 2011.

But Nunez's criminal career continued, authorities say. The Mexican government claims Nunez's power struggle with another drug chieftain in the spring of 2011 resulted in the slayings of 350 people, whose bodies were unearthed in 23 mass graves in the northern state of Durango.

Dutch gov't promises some reform of tax policies

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Dutch government says it will introduce reforms to reduce the harm caused to developing countries by multinational companies exploiting the Dutch tax system. Earlier this year, a report by the country's

Institute for Economic Investigation estimated developing countries lose out on some 145 million euros (\$192 million) in tax revenues annually as a result of Dutch tax laws. It found that multinationals were funneling money through

the Netherlands to tax havens. Deputy Finance Minister Frans Weekers said Friday the government intends to crack down on "mailbox" companies that receive dividends from foreign sources and then send them abroad without

other economic activity in the Netherlands.

However he said other problems must be addressed at an international level. Favorable Dutch treatment of royalties and dividends will remain intact.



Adena Nicole and Rachel Jessica celebrate their Bat Mitzva in Aruba

PALM BEACH - A unique Bat Mitzva celebration was hosted by Pure Ocean at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort when proud parents Michele and Andrew enjoyed the pleasure of seeing their smart, young girls, transition into adulthood, in the Jewish faith.



With the sunset Bat Mitzva celebration, the beautiful twins were introduced to their community as accomplished and studied young adults, as they recited their Torah portions with great confidence, impressing Rabbi Klein and their congregation, with their accomplishments. The Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort set up a beautiful place of worship right on the beach, and the ceremony was followed by a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, and sumptuous, interactive buffet dinner featuring an array of Fresh Salads, Lamb Carving with Garlic Rosemary Sauce, an a la minute Pasta Station,



and Panko Crusted Grouper with Mango Relish, among other interesting entrees, sides and vegetables. For dessert, party-goers enjoyed Mousse Shooters and Mini Chocolate Brownies as well as a fancy three-tiered frosted cake. Seen in the photos are Adena Nicole and Rachel Jessica at their Bat Mitzva celebration, against the backdrop of a spectacular sunset on Palm Beach, Aruba. □



Young Entrepreneurs Foundation of Aruba Officially Launched!

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The Young Entrepreneurs Foundation of Aruba (YES Aruba) was officially launched recently during a press conference at the Young Entrepreneur Center, at Aruba Bank Camacuri. The YES Aruba organization consists of a board of directors, with President Hashvin Daryanani at the helm, and board members Ramsis Arénds and Kawish Misier.

The goal of YES Aruba is to support business-people who own new and small businesses, by providing them with valuable information that will help them succeed with their business. "We are very happy with the support of Aruba Bank. We believe that YES Aruba can make



real contributions to new business owners here on the island," Hashvin Daryanani, president of YES Aruba, explained.

The first event organized by YES Aruba will take place on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at the Renaissance Convention Center, start-

ing at 5:30 p.m. During this event, YES Aruba will provide more details about the organization and also present three short lectures with important information relevant to all new business owners. The speakers will be Edward Erasmus, Free Zone Aruba, who will

cover the financial part of a business, Guido Picus of Expandeer, who will provide information about digital strategies, and Carlos Lopez from Mr. FroYo's, who will talk about his experience, starting his own business. Registration to this event is free, as the event is supported by Aruba Bank. To register, visit www.yesaruba.org. The last day to register is September 4, 2013. Places are limited, so if you're interested in participating, please register as soon as possible.

Aruba Bank considers it important to support these local business owners. Gina Habibe, executive director of Aruba Bank, says: "It's important to support the small and middle-sized businesses, since they are the heart of the Aruban economy. Remember that a small company today could be a big company tomorrow. As a bank, this is how we contribute to the growth of our economy."

The objectives of YES Aruba are to help stimulate new businesses, and also already existing small and medium businesses. YES Aruba will be organize think tanks to create new ideas for business owners, and organize networking sessions with new business owners and relevant

parties in attendance. YES Aruba will stimulate relationships with mentors, meaning between new business owners and those who already have more experience. YES Aruba will organize events to introduce new businesses that are just entering the market. YES Aruba will also look to influence decisions that will help facilitate and stimulate the sustainability and growth of businesses here. YES Aruba would like to help work towards a stable economic environment, which creates healthy

opportunities to develop new businesses. YES Aruba was born thanks to a lack of an alternative platform where new business owners could exchange ideas and experiences. During the first National Council for Innovation and Competitiveness (NCIC) event that took place in 2011, co-founder of YES Aruba, Kawish Misier, came up with the concept to create a network for small business owners, so that they could improve their relationships and exchange experiences with each other. This idea was brought up to one of the speakers of the event, Joyce Bartels-Daal, who, right away, brought all the new business owners together and introduced them to each other. Since this event took place, the young business people continued to meet each other every week to develop the concept and help each other. Now, two years later, YES Aruba is an official foundation, with the goal of bettering and inspiring anyone who has started their own business recently. To find out more about YES Aruba and the events that they have planned, please visit their Web site at www.yesaruba.org. □

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A big welcome back to Jack and Gigi from Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill!

PALM BEACH - A big, warm welcome back to Jack and Gigi Wolensky from Trucksville, PA. They have been coming to Aruba since 1993 and discovered this pier bar when it was still named Kokoa. Since then they have returned

every year to hang out at this beautiful pier bar. Every time they come they make t-shirts with a fun saying on the back and the Bugaloe Crew works the whole day wearing these shirts. This year the saying was "We are the people our parents

warned us about". Jack and Gigi has become real friends with the Bugaloe crew and are always warmly welcomed. Their favorite menu item is the Grouper sandwich, and favorite drink is Polar beer or Stoli & lemonade.

What they like best about Aruba is that it has the friendliest people in the Caribbean. When they were asked for their funniest memory of Bugaloe they said it's too difficult just to pick one...there was a time that Jack had a bar stool mishap, when he wanted to sit the whole stool broke apart and Jack was lying on the floor and his beloved wife instead of helping him was in tears of laughter. Every year they organize the "Speedo Challenge" featuring Erik and Ditto. The one that can stand behind the bar the longest in a very wrong



speedo while dancing to "YMCA" and "I'm too sexy" will win the grand prize of \$100,-, again we had a blast this year! The

Bugaloe crew would like to thank Jack and Gigi for being loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to see them more often. □

Post Aruba proudly exhibits Memorable Remembrances



ORANJESTAD - On the 19th of August 2013, Post Aruba N.V. Oranjestad opened its doors with a beautiful exhibition titled "Recuerdonan Memorabel di Post Aruba" (Memorable Remembrances of Aruba Post), where they show some of the first artifacts that were used in the postal service here in Aruba, each of them with their own use and description. In this expo you will be able to read the first letter written in Papiamentu, this is displayed in relation to the celebration of our National Year of Papiamentu.

Also, you will appreciate artifacts that were used from of the 20's until the 80's, like mailboxes, stamp machine, postage machine, bundling machine, weighing scales, and a bicycle. These artifacts had been stored for a long time at Aruba Post and for some time now employees have been planning to exhibit them for the public to appreciate.

Taking into account the space available in the main hall of the Post Office in Oranjestad, they decided to use this space to set up a permanent exhibition to beautify the office and make it more pleasant for the customers.

This expo will surely bring back many memories to those who lived through those times, which will never come back and that are worth knowing, preserving and recording, not only in memory but also as part of our national history.

Post Aruba wishes to thank the Marketing team for taking this initiative, and more in particular: Millicen Marchena, Katharine Lacle and Raul Dubero from Post Aruba, and Jhon Freddy Tobon Montoya of the Department of Culture of Aruba, who set up the expo so that the people of Aruba and tourists who make use of the postal services can appreciate and admire part of the history of Post Aruba N.V. □

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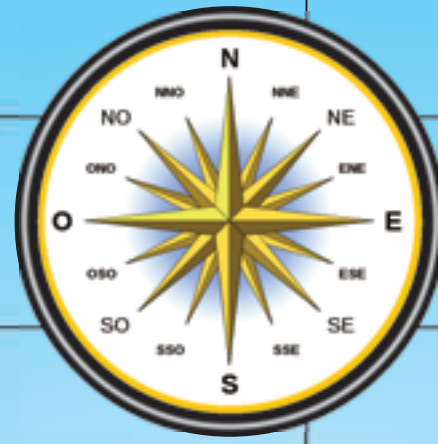
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Phil Mickelson reacts after sinking a birdie putt on the 11th green during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., Friday, Aug. 30, 2013.

Associated Press

Mickelson's star power shines brightest at Boston

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NORTON, Massachusetts

(AP) — Phil Mickelson keeps saying how much he loves playing with Tiger Woods. He shot 63 at the Deutsche Bank Championship to prove it.

In a feature grouping of the top three players in the world ranking, Mickelson turned in the star performance Friday morning with a 28 that allowed him to consider — but only briefly — another shot at 59.

By the end of the day, when he played a risky shot from deep in the trees on his final hole to salvage bogey, he was happy to have a share of the lead. Mickelson was tied with Brian Davis, who made a 25-foot birdie putt on the last hole to join him at 8-under 63.

"What Phil did today was pretty impressive," Woods said after a 68 that only seemed worse considering the company he kept.

Masters champion Adam Scott, rounding out the 1-2-3 pairing, struggled to a

73 and joked later that he rolled out of the wrong side of the bed. "I wish could have gotten in their jet stream," Scott said.

Mickelson did everything right.

He started his round on the TPC Boston by making birdie putts of 20 feet on No. 10 and 30 feet on No. 11. He ended the front nine with five straight birdies, only the second nine-hole score of 28 on the PGA Tour this year. And even after a bogey from the bunker on No. 1, he hit a 6-iron from 213 yards that settled just more than a foot away for eagle on the next hole. That put him at 8 under for his round with seven holes to play. "It was a good start," Mickelson said. "I got off to a great front nine and somewhat stalled on the back. But after shooting 7 under the first nine, it was going to be a good round as long as I didn't mess it up."

He tried. Mickelson ended his brilliant round with two words: "Oh, no."

Continued on Page 22

Ben Johnson promotes new anti-doping campaign

LONDON (AP) — Disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson is the face of a new anti-doping campaign. The Canadian was sensationally stripped of his Olympic gold medal and world record in the 100 meters at the 1988 Seoul Games after testing positive for steroids. After a two-year suspen-

sion, he received a lifetime ban in 1993 for a second positive doping test. Now he is promoting an anti-doping campaign, Pure Sport, which has been launched by a sportswear company. "Winning a gold medal and being the best in the world it cost me my reputation, my life," John-

son said Thursday in London. "I'm here to try and change that. I'm trying to clear the air and clear my part of life, trying to help future generations and future athletes, athletes of my caliber, who have tested positive, been in the same boat as me, trying to help them and say 'you're not alone.'"

Johnson said he hoped to convince future athletes not to resort to drugs.

"If I can help change the mind of athletes in generations to come, that's what we are here for," he said.

The campaign's backers said in a statement that Johnson will ask sports fans to sign a petition de-

manding action to "improve the waning credibility of world sport," while demanding a truth-and-reconciliation process across sport.

Johnson will take his message to the Olympic Stadium in Seoul on Sept. 24 — the 25th anniversary of the race where his reputation was shattered. □

Djokovic settles down to win in 3 sets at U.S. Open

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Novak Djokovic faced two set points early in his second-round match at the U.S. Open.

He saved them, won the set, then needed less than an hour to close out a victory. The 2011 champion beat 87th-ranked Benjamin Becker of Germany 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-2 on Friday.

Becker had a chance to serve for the first set at 5-4. But he wasted the first with a forehand into the net and the second when a backhand sailed wide.

"Becker is a quality opponent and he should have won the first set," Djokovic said in an on-court interview. "I was fortunate enough to come back and win the first set, and after that, I was much more comfortable on the court." The wind was swirling at Arthur Ashe Stadium, as it often does during the day to players' frustration.

"You need to have this adjustment, footwork, steps, in order to get on the ball," Djokovic said. "I didn't have that in the first set. I was still trying to find my way from baseline, and the other side he was serving well. I had my chances, though, first set earlier to break, but didn't capitalize."

"After I played a good tie-break, everything kind of settled. I started to serve better, started to step into the court, which is important. I need to start the way I started in the first match, but my game is getting there. I feel that it was a big test for me today."

Another Grand Slam winner, Li Na, also showed some championship form earlier on Ashe.

This time, her opponent, Laura Robson, looked very much like a teenager.

The fifth-seeded Li avenged her third-round upset loss to the young Brit at last year's U.S. Open, winning in straight sets at the same stage at Flushing Meadows.

Li, the 2011 French Open champ, rallied from down a break in the second set for a 6-2, 7-5 victory.

Li was nervous after she noticed that her draw was a repeat from last year. A pep talk from coach Carlos Rodriguez eased her anxiety.

"After the talk I was feeling much, much better," she said. "Because before I never try to share the feeling with the team."

Australian Open semifinalist Sloane Stephens, seeded 15th, beat fellow American Jamie Hampton 6-1, 6-3. Hampton, at No. 23, was seeded at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in her career.

Stephens' next opponent could be defending champ Serena Williams, who faces Yaroslava Shvedova in the nightcap at Ashe. It would be a rematch of their Australian Open quarterfinal, won by the young American.

Third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 9-seeded Jelena Jankovic each pulled out tough straight-set victories.

Wimbledon runner-up Sabine Lisicki, seeded 16th, won't be making a run at Flushing Meadows after she was eliminated in straight sets by Ekaterina Makarova. The 24th-seeded Russian won 6-4, 7-5.

A year ago, Robson's upset of Li was the biggest victory of her breakthrough run. Meanwhile, it was the third straight frustrating U.S. Open loss for the Chinese star.

Robson was ranked 89th coming into last year's tournament. She had never advanced past the second round at a Grand Slam event or defeated a top-10 opponent.

That all changed when she upset major champions Kim Clijsters and Li back-to-back to make the fourth round. Now 19, Robson was seeded 30th at Flushing Meadows and coming off a fourth-round run at Wimbledon.

Li had 34 unforced errors in their match a year ago, and she lamented then that the free points lifted the teen's confidence. This time, Robson never had much of an opening.

"She served very well to-

day and I thought she was returning really deep," Robson said. "You know, there wasn't a lot I could do in some points."

Li surprised herself with 11 aces Friday — including one on a second serve on match point — and won all nine points when she went to the net. She's back in the fourth round at the U.S. Open for the first time since 2009.

Her run over, Robson now must face an unfortunate reality for many teenagers: getting her wisdom teeth out.

"All the other girls in the locker room are telling me their horror stories: 'Oh, yeah, I pulled my gauze out and it was just blood,'" Robson said. "So that's not too nice." □



Novak Djokovic of Serbia chases down a shot from Benjamin Becker of Germany during the second round of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 30, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

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Stybar wins 7th Vuelta stage, Nibali protects lead



Czech Zdenek Stybar of team Omega Pharma-QuickStep, right, crosses the finish to win as Belgium's Philippe Gilbert, left, takes second position in the seventh stage of the Spanish Vuelta, a 205.9 km-kilometer (127-mile) ride starting in Almendralejo and finishing in Mairena del Aljarafe, Spain, Friday, Aug. 30, 2013.

MAIRENA DEL ALIJARAFE, Spain (AP) — Czech rider Zdenek Stybar won the seventh stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Friday, and Vincenzo Nibali of Italy maintained his overall lead. Stybar broke away with

Philippe Gilbert in the final kilometers of the 206-kilometer (128-mile) stage from Almendralejo to Mairena del Aljarafe and edged the world road race champion at the finish line. The 27-year-old Stybar won

Associated Press the Eneco Tour this month. His stage win comes one day after Omega Pharma-Quickstep teammate Tony Martin saw his long solo escape come up just short in the final stretch. "It's a really beautiful day

for me and my team after yesterday when Tony was fighting so hard. It was a perfect scenario," Stybar said. "It felt really good. The first stages were really hard for me, but today the win gives me a lot of confidence. "You don't beat a world champion every day." Stybar finished with a time of 4 hours, 51 minutes, 27 seconds. The flat stage didn't cause any changes at the top of the general classification. Nibali, the Giro d'Italia champion, kept his 3-second lead over American rider Christopher Horner. The day ended poorly for the Garmin Sharp team when the peloton passed through Seville, with Tyler Farrar stopping because of a flat tire before Daniel Martin was slowed by a fall. Some cyclists complained that the final stretch was unsafe because the narrow streets brought the specta-

tors too close to the riders. "The end of the stage was shameful. An urban route where we have the public touching us with their hands? It's an issue of survival," Joaquim Rodriguez said. "We already talked about it in the peloton. This is worth stopping for." Fellow Spaniard Alejandro Valverde agreed. "Too dangerous? I think so," he said. "I have spoken with several riders and they all complained. There must have been another alternative that was less dangerous. The final sprint always has its risks, but today was too much." After two transition stages, the Vuelta returns to the mountains on Saturday with a 167-kilometer (104-mile) ride starting in Jerez de la Frontera and ending in a climb to the category one summit finish at Alto de Penas Blancas. The three-week race ends in Madrid on Sept. 15. □

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Tigers edge Athletics to stretch AL Central lead

DETROIT (AP) — Torii Hunter hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting Detroit over the Oakland Athletics 7-6 Thursday and boosting the Tigers after Max Scherzer was denied his 20th win and Miguel Cabrera limped off with an injury.

AL Capsules

Detroit scored four times in the ninth off Grant Balfour (0-3). A two-out walk set up Victor Martinez's RBI single, and then Hunter connected as the Tigers avoided a four-game series sweep. Scherzer gave up six runs in five innings. The no-decision left him with a 19-1 record. Cabrera hurt his abdomen making an awkward slide while trying to stretch a single into a double in the

fifth. He was listed as day to day with discomfort, but insisted he would be back in the lineup Friday night when the AL Central-leading Tigers begin a series against the second-place Cleveland Indians. Prince Fielder hit his 21st homer for Detroit, and Joaquin Benoit (4-0) pitched the ninth for the win. Jed Lowrie and Brandon Moss each hit a two-run homer for Oakland. **ORIOLES 3, RED SOX 2** **BOSTON (AP)** — Chris Tillman pitched seven strong innings to earn his 15th victory of the season and Baltimore avoided a three-game sweep. The Red Sox remained 2½ games ahead of Tampa Bay in the AL East, with Baltimore another four games

back. Manny Machado had two hits for the Orioles, including a two-run double that gave them the lead for good in the third inning. Danny Valencia had two doubles, and Adam Jones also had a pair of hits for Baltimore. Tillman (15-4) allowed two runs and six hits while striking out eight. Jim Johnson pitched the ninth for his AL-leading 41st save. Jon Lester (12-8) pitched six innings for Boston, allowing three runs and five hits. Daniel Nava had three hits. **ANGELS 2, RAYS 0** **ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)** — Jason Vargas allowed two hits over seven innings, helping the Angels win for the fifth time in six games. Vargas (8-5) gave up a



Detroit Tigers' Torii Hunter celebrates hitting a walkoff three-run home run to defeat the Oakland Athletics 7-6 in a baseball game in Detroit, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

leadoff double to Desmond Jennings in the first and Ben Zobrist's sixth-inning infield single. The left-hander struck out seven and walked three. □

NL Capsules

Gallardo, Ramirez lead Brewers past Bucs 4-0

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Yovani Gallardo pitched seven sharp innings to beat Pittsburgh once again and Aramis Ramirez homered against his former team as the Milwaukee Brewers downed the Pirates 4-0 Thursday night. The Pirates fell one game behind NL Central-leading St. Louis. The Cardinals were idle, and start a three-game series at Pittsburgh on Friday night. Making his Pirates' debut, catcher John Buck went 3 for 3 as he subbed behind the plate while starter Russell Martin got the night off. Pittsburgh acquired Buck and outfielder Marlon Byrd from the New York Mets on Tuesday. Gallardo (10-9) al-



Milwaukee Brewers starting pitcher Yovani Gallardo (49) delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Pittsburgh Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

lowed six hits and one walk while striking out five. He improved his career record against the Pirates to 11-4, including 5-2 at PNC Park. Ramirez hit his ninth home

run of an injury-marred season. He broke into the major leagues with Pittsburgh in 1998, and hit his 350th career homer Tuesday in the series opener.

Rookie Gerrit Cole (6-7) pitched a career-high 7 1-3 innings in his 14th start. He allowed four runs and 10 hits. **NATIONALS 9, MARLINS 0** **WASHINGTON (AP)** — Jayson Werth and Ian Desmond each hit a three-run homer, leading Gio Gonzalez and the Washington Nationals over Miami. Bryce Harper also homered as the Nationals won for the eighth time in nine games. They pulled within 6½ games of idle Cincinnati for the second NL wildcard slot. Gonzalez (8-6) pitched seven innings of three-hit ball in his first victory in six weeks. Adeiny Hechavarria had two of Miami's four hits in its eighth loss in

nine games — matching its worst nine-game stretch since May. Tom Koehler (3-9) took the loss. **BRAVES 3, INDIANS 1** **ATLANTA (AP)** — Brian McCann hit a three-run homer, Kris Medlen pitched seven scoreless innings and the Atlanta Braves completed a sweep of Cleveland. McCann went deep in the third after Justin Upton kept the inning going with a two-out single. Upton had to leave the game in the sixth after being struck on the left hand by a pitch, but X-rays were negative. He is day to day. Medlen (11-12) capped a series of dominant pitching by the Braves, who surrendered just three runs in three games. □

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MICKELSON

Continued from Page 18

He hit a snap-hook off the ninth tee, so far right that it missed the fairway by some 40 yards and went so deep in the woods that fans could barely see Mickelson ducking and weaving through the branches to find his ball.

He decided against a one-shot penalty drop out of the lateral hazard, fearing the slope would roll the ball too close to the branches and restrict his swing.

"Just give me an 8- or a 9-iron," he told his caddie, Jim "Bones" Mackay. He was ready to hack away when his caddie reminded him the gallery was still in the way. Choking well up the grip, flattening the swing to avoid limbs, Mickelson chopped it out to the rough and still had 210 yards left. He knocked that one on the green and two-putted for his bogey and a 63.

Kevin Stadler birdied his last four holes for a 64.

Sergio Garcia, Hunter Mahan and Roberto Castro were in the group at 65. Garcia tends to skip the Deutsche Bank, but he is No. 55 in the FedEx Cup, no guarantee of being among the top 70 who advance to the third playoff event outside Chicago. Instead, the Spaniard is playing his fifth straight week.

Rory McIlroy opened with a 70, which he said was the worst score he could have shot.

It was at the Deutsche Bank Championship in 2007 when Mickelson first got over the mental hurdle of playing with Woods, his longtime nemesis. He said



Phil Mickelson, left, shakes hands with Adam Scott, right, from Australia, as Tiger Woods, center, watches at the 10th tee during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., Friday, Aug. 30, 2013. Associated Press

swing coach Butch Harmon, who formerly worked with Woods, gave him a few tips about playing with the world's No. 1 player that relaxed Mickelson.

In the 15 rounds they have played together since, Mickelson has a 9-5-1 advantage in posting the lower score. He has shot the better score all five times in the final round, three of those leading to wins.

Mickelson had said Woods "brings out the best in me" on Thursday after his pro-am round. When asked about that again after his 63, Lefty smiled and said, "After today, it's hard to think any differently."

Woods referred to the course as "getttable," the same description he gave of Muirfield when Mick-

elson shot 66 on the final day to win the British Open, considered one of the great closing rounds in a major. That was the case, though. The TPC Boston was soft enough — and the fairways wide enough — to allow some low numbers.

Woods said his back felt fine, and there were no outward indications he was in any pain. The only thing that hurt was not hitting enough shots close for birdie chances, and missing a few at the end. Woods had a 6-foot birdie putt on the seventh and a downhill birdie putt from about 12 feet on his last hole, missing both of them. "The back is good," Woods said. "Unfortunately, I didn't give myself a whole

lot of looks."

Even though the majors are over, and Mickelson added a big one at the British Open, the next month is a great chance for him. For all his greatness over the last two decades — 42 career wins on the PGA Tour, five majors and a spot in the Hall of Fame — he came along at the wrong time. Mickelson has never been player of the year, No. 1 in the world or tops on the PGA Tour money list. And he hasn't won the FedEx Cup, now in its seventh year.

This might be his best chance. Mickelson feels great, though at 43 he was reminded he wasn't getting any younger when he went home to San Diego last week to take his oldest

daughter to high school.

With two wins — one a major — and a runner-up in the U.S. Open, another win at a FedEx Cup playoff event might be enough to get voted PGA Tour player of the year. Woods has five wins, all of them strong, but failed to win a major.

"If I finish off with one or two wins this year, and win the FedEx Cup, I think that would be enough to get the player of the year," he said. "My game clicked again last week, and I feel like these next three weeks I'm going to play very well. I can just feel it. You can just tell sometimes. The game feels sharp. And mentally, I have a lot of energy and I'm able to focus clearly. And that's usually when you play well." □



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Teemu Selanne returns to Ducks for last NHL season

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Teemu Selanne is returning to the Anaheim Ducks for his 21st and final NHL season.

After spending most of the summer contemplating his future, he announced his decision Friday in a humorous video posted on YouTube by the Ducks. The 43-year-old forward agreed to a one-year deal worth \$2 million with the Ducks.

Selanne is the 15th-leading scorer in NHL history with 1,430 points, and his 675 career goals are 11th-most in league history.

Two weeks before the Ducks open training camp, Selanne confirmed he'll join them — but for the first time, he insisted he's finally finished with hockey after this year.

The Finnish Flash has spent parts of 14 seasons with Anaheim, and his family lives in Orange County year-round.

Selanne has spent the summer contemplating retirement every year since Anaheim won the Stanley



In this April 3, 2013, file photo, Anaheim Ducks' Teemu Selanne, of Finland, celebrates his goal against the Dallas Stars during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Anaheim, Calif.. Selanne says he's returning to the Ducks for his 21st and final NHL season.

Cup in 2007, always electing to return to the Ducks. Selanne's role diminished slightly last year with the

Ducks, who won the Pacific Division title before losing in the first round of the playoffs. He had 12 goals

and 12 assists in 46 games, but still displayed his usual speed and goal-scoring acumen despite decreas-

es in ice time and production late in the season.

Selanne took a pay cut from last season's \$4.5 million salary for his final return to the Ducks, who committed \$135 million to cornerstone forwards Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry in eight-year contract extensions last season. Anaheim then traded goal-scoring forward Bobby Ryan to Ottawa.

Selanne's announcement video shows him struggling at golf, eventually throwing his bag into a lake in frustration. When he realizes his phone is in the bag, he jumps into the lake to retrieve it before calling Ducks general manager Bob Murray.

"I'm coming back," Selanne says.

"Yeah, but this is it. This is my final one."

With 675 goals, Selanne is six goals behind 41-year-old New Jersey forward Jaromir Jagr for 10th place in NHL history. With strong seasons, both veterans could catch Mark Messier (694), Steve Yzerman (692) or Mario Lemieux (690) on the career goals list. □

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Stocks inch lower as investors weigh weak spending

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — August was tough on the stock market. Now, investors face an even scarier September.

Disappointing news on consumer spending helped pull stocks lower Friday in a quiet end to the market's worst month in more than a year.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed August with a loss of 3.1 percent while the Dow Jones industrial average lost 4.4 percent. Both had their biggest one-month drop since May 2012.

The month began on a high note. On Aug. 2, news that unemployment fell to its lowest level in more than four years helped lift the S&P 500 index to a record high of 1,709.67. Then things quickly changed. Bond yields jumped, sending mortgage rates up, as investors began speculating that the Federal Reserve would withdraw some of its support for the economy as early as September.

An array of questions weighed on investors' minds, said Lawrence Creatura, a money manager at Federated Investors.

The latest wild card is Syria. The possibility that the U.S. could strike Bashar al-Assad's regime propelled oil prices to a two-year high earlier in the week.

"The Syria situation is a strong dose of uncertainty," Creatura said. "And investors hate uncertainty."

Before the market opened Friday, the government reported that Americans' income and spending both increased just 0.1 percent in July. The scant rise suggested that economic growth is off to a weak start in the second half of the year. It followed other reports showing steep drops in new-home sales and orders for long-lasting manufactured goods in July.

The major indexes headed lower from the opening bell on Friday and never recovered. The S&P dropped 5.20 points, or 0.3 percent,

to close at 1,632.97. Retail stores and other consumer-discretionary compa-

cent slide is hardly a surprise after the stock market had such a strong run. The

events that could shake investors' confidence.

Germany holds national elections that could change how the eurozone handles rescue loans for troubled countries. The U.S. Congress will need to pass a spending bill to avoid a government shutdown. And many people expect the Fed to reduce its bond purchases, which have bolstered the economy and stock market.

"Most people I talk to have scaled back and are taking a more defensive posture," Johnson said. "They're bracing for volatility."

Salesforce.com jumped to an all-time high after the cloud-computing company reported strong quarterly results and raised its sales forecast late Thursday. Salesforce.com was up \$5.48, or 13 percent, to \$49.13, the biggest gain of any company in the S&P 500 index.

In the government bond

market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note edged up to 2.77 percent from 2.76 percent late Thursday. Among other companies making moves Friday:

— General Electric reportedly plans to spin off its credit-card division through an initial public offering of stock.

The IPO could come early next year, according to The Wall Street Journal. GE's stock rose 3 cents, less than 0.1 percent, to \$23.14. — Big Lots gained 78 cents, or 2 percent, to \$35.42. Early Friday, the operator of discount-stores reported lower quarterly earnings and U.S. sales, but its overall results still topped the estimates of financial analysts.

— Krispy Kreme Doughnuts plunged 15 percent. Late Thursday, the company posted a drop in quarterly profits, which came in below analysts' estimates. Krispy Kreme's stock lost \$3.51 to \$19.72. □



Trader Timothy Pastina works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Disappointing news on consumer spending helped pull stocks lower Friday, August 30, 2013, in a quiet end to the market's worst month in more than a year.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

nies led eight of the index's 10 industry groups to slight losses.

The Dow Jones industrial fell 30.64 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at 14,810.31, and the Nasdaq composite dropped 30.43 points, or 0.8 percent, to 3,589.87.

Many investors say the re-

S&P 500 is still up 14.5 percent this year.

September could be even more difficult. Craig Johnson, a technical market strategist at Piper Jaffray, said he expects trading to turn increasingly turbulent. That's because September is stacked with so many

Report: GE to spin off consumer finance business

The Associated Press

General Electric Co. plans to spin off the U.S. consumer lending business of its finance arm with an initial public offering of stock that could come early next year, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The newspaper also said Friday that the Fairfield, Connecticut, conglomerate is considering smaller spinoffs or asset sales, but it has started preliminary work on the IPO.

The paper cited unnamed sources familiar with the matter.

The consumer finance business provides store credit cards to about 55 million people for retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. It accounts for \$50 billion of GE Capital's \$274 billion in outstanding loans, according to the report.

Aside from its finance business, GE sells a wide variety of industrial equipment and appliances around the world. This includes jet engines, medical diagnostic equipment, oil and

gas drilling equipment and washing machines.

GE spokesman Seth Martin declined to comment on the report.

CEO Jeff Immelt told ana-

lysts and investors at a conference in May that his company wanted a smaller GE Capital. He said they wanted to reduce the finance arm's assets from \$402 billion in this year's first quarter to between \$300

billion and \$350 billion by the end of next year. "That is going to create excess cash in GE Capital, and we are going to use that excess cash to buy

business, which is commercial lending. He also told his audience that capital markets were receptive to IPOs.

Shares of GE climbed 11

A General Electric (GE) logo is seen on display at Western Appliance store in Mountain View, Calif. General Electric Co. plans to spin off the U.S. consumer lending business of its finance arm with an initial public offering of stock that could come early next year, according to The Wall Street Journal.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)



back stock," Immelt said. That asset total had dropped to \$391 billion by the second quarter, according to Martin. Immelt said in May that the company still planned to expand GE Capital's core

cents to \$23.23 in late-morning trading while the Dow Jones industrial average, of which GE is a component, fell less 1 percent. GE's stock has climbed nearly 11 percent so far this year. □

Carlos Slim threatens to walk away from KPN bid

TOBY STERLING
AP Business Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Carlos Slim threatened Friday to walk away from his €7.2 billion (\$9.5 billion) offer to buy the 70 percent of Dutch telecom Royal KPN NV he doesn't already own after a foundation linked to the company mounted a "poison pill" defense.

The KPN Foundation is a body peculiar to the Netherlands formed to defend the rights of not only shareholders, but also workers and customers. Late Thursday it said it viewed Slim's bid of 2.4 euros per share as hostile and exercised its right to issue temporary preference shares worth 49.9 percent of voting rights in KPN — effectively blocking Slim's bid.

On Friday, the Mexican billionaire's company, America Movil responded in a statement that its plans will benefit KPN and it could withdraw its bid if the foundation persists.

If the foundation "main-

tains its current position and seeks to prevent the offer from proceeding — to the detriment of KPN's customers, employees and shareholders, and also to the detriment of telecommunication services in the Netherlands, all of whom America Movil firmly believes will benefit from the offer — America Movil is prepared to withdraw its offer," it said.

KPN shares fell 3.4 percent to 2.21 euros in Amsterdam trading Friday.

The Foundation, which has 5 directors and acts independently, said the main reason for its move is that it views Movil's approach as hostile, and that it has not offered concrete guarantees to the various stakeholders. Movil has said it plans to invest in KPN and will maintain its brand and headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, but has yet to launch its actual offer.

"The Foundation believes that América Móvil should,

in accordance with... what is common practice in the Netherlands, open negotiations with KPN's Board of Management and the Dutch government as soon

"are in contact" with Movil "and we would like to continue that."

Analyst Thijs Berkelder of ABN Amro said that company foundations are a



Mexican telecommunications tycoon Carlos Slim speaks during news conference at the Soumaya museum in Mexico City. Slim threatened Friday to walk away from his €7.2 billion (\$9.5 billion) offer to buy the 70 percent of Dutch telecom Royal KPN NV he doesn't already own after a foundation linked to the company mounted a "poison pill" defense.

(AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)

as possible," it said.

It is not clear what role, if any, the government should have in the matter. KPN spokesman Stefan Simons said KPN's boards

feature of the Dutch corporate landscape, though they rarely act. The KPN Foundation was established in 1994, when the former state telecom was

first privatized and politicians worried it might fall into foreign hands.

Slim's offer for KPN could be seen as opportunistic, as shares were well under 2 euros each as recently as June, but it could also be seen as generous. He built his 30 percent stake over the past two years, buying when shares were still worth 8 euros each.

Under current management, KPN has been foundering. It ran into financial trouble as increasing use of smartphones began eating into margins in the Netherlands, where it is the dominant carrier. Customers with smartphones ditched KPN's highly priced SMS text messaging service masse for cheaper Internet-based services, and KPN's profits plunged. Then KPN paid more than it had expected to the Dutch government in an auction for fourth generation mobile licenses, loading its balance sheet with debt. In May, the company was forced to issue 3 billion euros worth of new shares — an offering that Movil helped underwrite. Even after the share issue, KPN carried 9.5 billion euros in net debt at the end of the second quarter.

KPN recorded a second-quarter net profit of 107 million euros on sales of 2.94 billion euros. Its book value was 5.5 billion euros. Slim's bid values the company's stock at 10.2 billion euros.

Although the latest developments leave the KPN takeover in limbo, they won't affect another important deal: KPN's proposed sale of its German E-Plus unit to Telefonica SA of Spain for \$11.4 billion in cash and shares. Telefonica plans to merge E-Plus with its own German arm.

Earlier this week, Movil gave its "irrevocable commitment" to the E-Plus sale — after helping KPN's boards negotiate more favorable terms than they had initially settled for. The Foundation said Thursday it also endorses selling the German arm, so that is virtually certain to be approved at a KPN shareholders' meeting Oct. 2. □

China fines brokerage \$85M for stock market chaos

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — One of China's biggest securities firms was fined a record \$85 million on Friday and its former CEO was banned from the industry after computerized trading mistakes caused wild swings in Chinese stock prices two weeks ago. A multibillion-dollar avalanche of buy orders from Everbright Securities on Aug. 16 propelled China's main market index up 6.5 percent before it fell back and ended the day down. Regulators blamed a design flaw in Everbright's computerized trading system. In addition to the 523 million yuan (\$85 million) fine, the highest ever imposed on a Chinese brokerage, regulators will seize 87.2 million yuan (\$14 million) in improper trading profits, state media reported, citing China's market regulator. The penalties reflect Beijing's willingness to punish securities executives severely, in contrast to what critics complain is reluctance by regulators

in the United States and elsewhere to pursue misconduct by managers of major financial firms.

The latest case is Ever-

company. That came as the government was looking at whether Chinese brokerages were examining companies' finances

bright over possible losses, according to state television, the newspaper China Securities Journal and other outlets. There has been



A man walks past the sign of Everbright Securities Ltd. in Shanghai. Everbright, one of China's biggest securities firms, has been fined \$85 million and four executives banned from the industry after computerized trading mistakes caused wild swings in Chinese stock prices.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

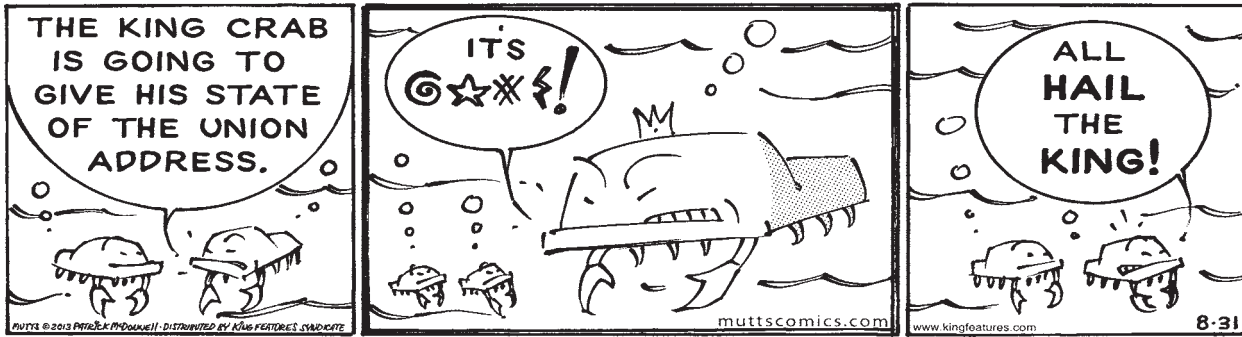
bright's second run-in with Chinese regulators this year. In June, it said regulators were investigating its handling of an initial public offering for another

closely enough before selling shares to investors.

A spokesman for the China Securities Regulatory Commission said investors will be allowed to sue Ever-

no word on the size of potential losses. Former CEO Xu Haoming, who resigned last week, was banned for life from the securities industry. □

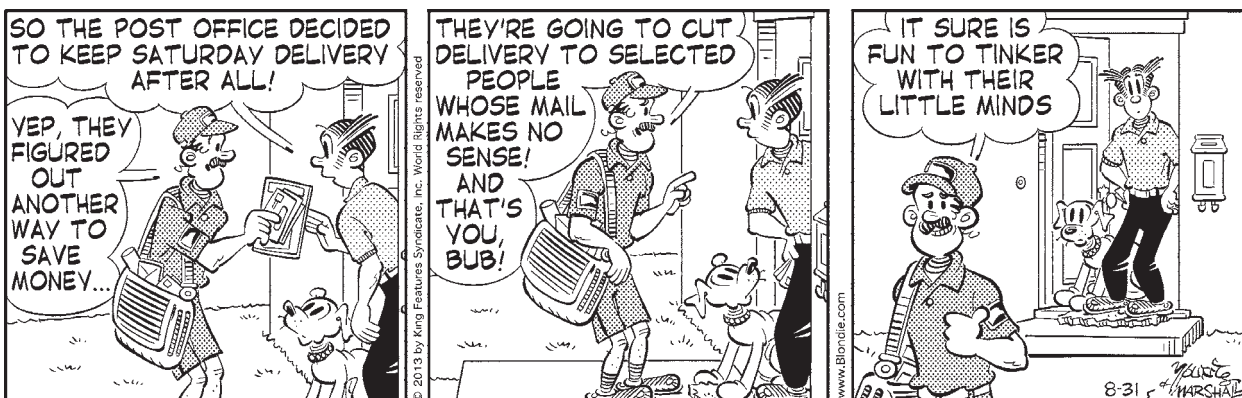
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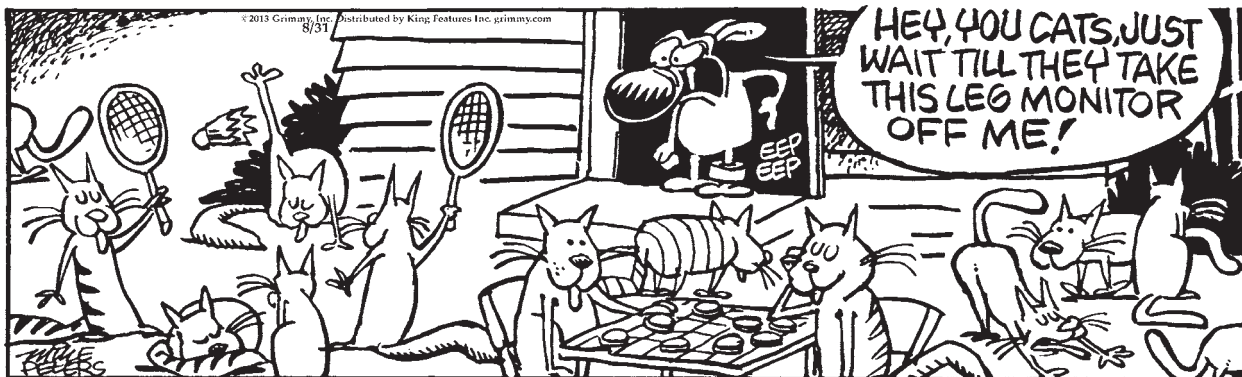
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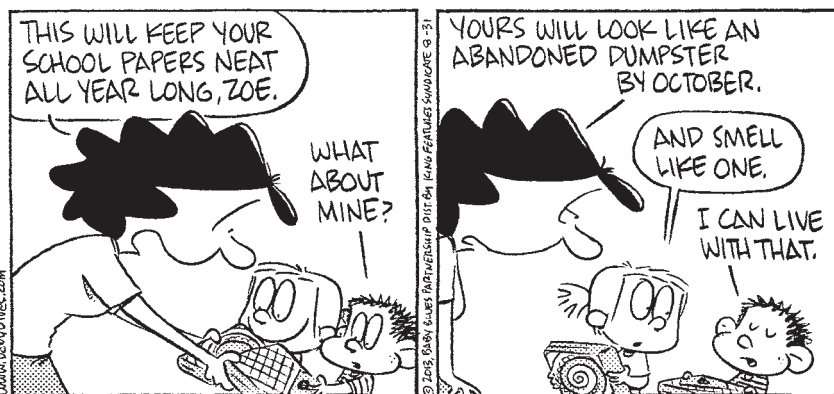


Mother Goose & Grimm

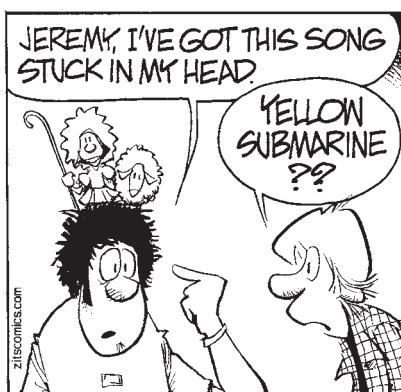


Baby Blues

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Conceptis Sudoku

			3	9	8			
		3				4		
	1			4			6	
6								9
1		7		2		8		4
8								2
	4			3			2	
		9				3		
			5	1	6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/31

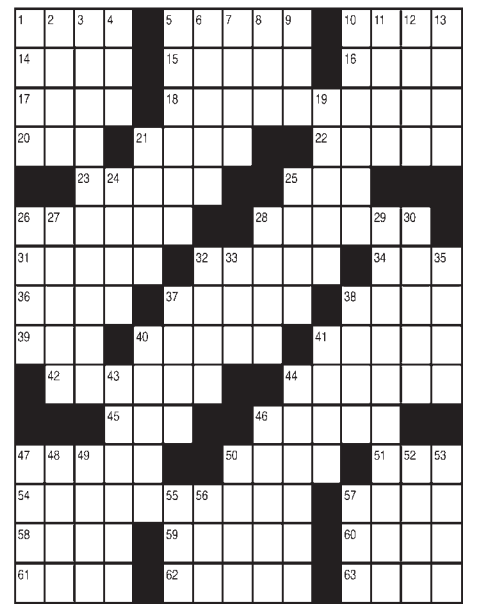
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	1	8	7	9	5	6	4	3
9	5	4	8	3	6	1	2	7
7	6	3	4	2	1	8	9	5
5	3	9	2	1	7	4	6	8
1	2	6	3	8	4	5	7	9
4	8	7	6	5	9	3	1	2
6	9	1	5	7	8	2	3	4
8	7	2	1	4	3	9	5	6
3	4	5	9	6	2	7	8	1

ACROSS

- Issue a challenge to
- Car accident
- Tater
- Heating chamber
- Japanese three-line poem
- Detest
- Passed away
- Extra
- Peculiar
- Hot tubs
- Cold rice with raw seafood
- One who helps you find a seat
- Lion or lynx
- Friendly
- Cuts of beef
- Smoke _; warning device
- Unflinching
- Male sheep
- Is the right size
- Bundle of grain
- In _ land; not facing reality
- Night before
- Bit of asparagus
- Substance in a printer cartridge
- Youngest son of Elizabeth II
- Cool creamy dessert
- _ day now; pretty soon
- Singer _ Page
- _ to the wise is sufficient"
- Talk back
- Tit for _
- Residents of Islamabad
- University in Houston
- Window ledge
- By oneself
- Residence
- Oil of _; skin care lotion
- Gingrich's namesakes
- Dollar bills



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/31/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- Ding-a-ling
- Ardent
- Taught again
- Conclusion
- Small church
- "M*A*S*H" role
- Is helpful to
- Zoom down snowy slopes
- Shack
- Yells
- Skillets
- Provo's state
- Sandwich shop
- Sir _ Newton
- Phony; false
- Gentlemen
- Hairdo
- Out of danger
- Martini garnish
- Laugh loudly
- Smooth change
- Business transactions
- Get rid of
- "_ and Sympathy"
- Colt's mother

B	E	L	A	S		S	C	A	R		M	A	N	S								
A	R	O	S	E		P	A	C	E		A	B	U	T								
A	L	I	S	T		U	S	E	D		T	I	K	I								
S	E	N	A	T	O	R	S		S	W	E	D	E	N								
						I	L	L	S		P	O	O	R	E	S	T					
						B	O	I	L	E	D	S	A	X	O	N						
						A	D	D	S	E	L	L	S		D	A	F	F	Y			
						R	O	L	L		R	O	O	T	S		L	I	E	U		
						T	R	E	E	S		O	B	E	E	Y	S		A	L	L	
											G	A	I	N	S		R	U	S	T	L	E
						O	B	T	A	I	N	S		D	U	M	P					
						F	R	I	L	L	S		R	E	P	A	I	R	E	D		
						T	A	L	E		U	P	I	N		T	R	A	D	E		
						E	V	E	S		L	E	N	S		R	A	N	G	E		
						N	O	S	E		T	A	K	E		A	L	T	E	R		

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8/31/13

- Agile
- Oaf
- Makes smooth
- Little children
- Cautiously
- Church services
- Apply a coat of color
- Lhasa _
- Cry loudly
- Neighbor of Tex.
- Winter flakes
- Pinnacle
- Pegs for Els
- Light brown
- Pub order
- Sorority letter

Why gold is making another comeback with investors

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

Gold is having a summer revival.

The price of gold touched \$1,420 an ounce this week, a three-and-a-half month high, as escalating tensions in the Middle East, volatile currency markets and renewed demand for jewelry in China and India pushed prices higher.

Gold has surged 15 percent since sinking to \$1,212 an ounce, its lowest level in almost three years, on June 27. A gain of 20 percent or more would put the metal back in a bull market.

Gold's resurgence follows a rough ride this year.

Gold slumped 4.8 percent in the first three months of 2013 as the outlook for the economy improved while inflation remained subdued.

For many years prior to that, large investors, like hedge funds, bought the metal as a way to protect their investments against rising prices and a slumping dollar. They feared that the Federal Reserve's stimulus program could cause prices to rise. But inflation remained subdued and that reduced the need to buy gold. Also, signs in January that the dollar was strengthening diminished the appeal of owning gold.

Then in April, the bottom fell out. A proposal that Cyprus sell some of its gold reserves to support its banks rattled traders, prompting concern that Spain, Italy and other weak European economies might also sell and flood the market.

Gold plunged by \$140 an ounce, or nine percent, on April 15 as investors unloaded their holdings. That was the biggest one-day decline in more than 30 years.

While the price of gold is still down 17 percent this year, the metal is on the rise.

Here are the factors driving its comeback:

A LITTLE INSURANCE

One of the reasons people buy gold is that it offers an alternative to more traditional financial assets, says Mike McGlone, director of

research at ETF Securities, a provider of commodity-based exchange-traded funds. When financial markets get jittery, investors often buy gold because it is considered one of the safe

since we don't, we do need something that is the ultimate store of value." Investors don't need to buy gold bars or coins to invest in the metal.

Exchange-traded funds

Both can be bought and sold on exchanges. Some of these funds, such as ETF's Physical Swiss Gold Shares and SPDR's Gold Shares, allow investors to buy into trusts that invest directly in gold.

HAVEN FROM STORMY CURRENCIES

The Fed appears close to reducing its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases, and that has stirred up currency prices worldwide, particularly in emerging markets. Investors had previously borrowed in dollars at low rates and then invested in faster growing economies in Asia and Latin America.

Now, that trend is reversing. U.S. interest rates have started to climb in anticipation of the Fed's reduced stimulus. Investors are selling their emerging-market holdings and converting the proceeds back into dollars. □



10-gram gold bars with a purity of 999.9 that have been pressed and stamped with the "Emirates Gold" company logo, lie on display in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Gold has surged 15% since sinking to \$1,212 an ounce, its lowest level in almost three years, on June 27, 2013. A gain of 20% or more would put the metal back in a bull market.

(AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

est assets that can easily be converted to cash.

As the stock market soared this year, rising as much as 20 percent, investors had less need to hold gold. That has changed the last four weeks.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index has lost 4 percent since reaching an all-time high of 1,709.67 on August 2. Traders are concerned about when and by how much the Fed will pare back on its stimulus, a major driver behind the market's rally.

Strife in Egypt and Syria has also reminded investors that it's a dangerous world out there: wars can spread and oil prices can spike, hurting economies and stock markets.

Investors want to add back a little insurance to their portfolios these days.

"If we lived in a perfect world, we would not need gold," says McGlone. "But

are investments that are similar to mutual funds.



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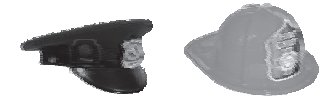
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Oranjestad

Aug. 31 Dr. Samuels
Sep. 1 van Trigt

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NOORD	587-0009
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SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
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Baby study spurs ethics debate over research risks

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - When Dagen Pratt's parents enrolled their tiny premature baby in a study of oxygen treatment, they didn't understand it was to test whether one dose works better than another. No one mentioned any risks. Now 6, Dagen struggles with cerebral palsy, and they wonder: Is that long-ago study to blame?

"Tell me that the Support study did not hurt Dagen in any way," her father, Shawn Pratt, challenged a government panel on Wednesday as his daughter, dressed in a bright sundress, stood quietly by.

A major controversy has erupted over what sounds like a straightforward question: How much should patients be told about the potential risks before they're enrolled in certain kinds of medical research?

The issue isn't about how to study a brand-new, unapproved therapy. All sides agree that those studies must fully inform participants that there's no guarantee the experiment will work, or even be safe.

Instead, the debate is about one of modern medicine's dirty little secrets: Doctors frequently prescribe one treatment over another without any evidence to know which option works best. There's no requirement that they tell their patients when they're essentially making an educated guess, or that they detail the pros and cons of each choice.

Researchers are supposed to outline all the risks when they study which commonly used option is best. But could that mislead patients into thinking research is riskier than their own doc-



Shawn and Carrie Pratt of Kingwood, W.Va., with their daughter Dagen, speak to the media outside a federal health meeting in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013. Dagen was part of a controversial study of premature babies that has sparked questions about how to inform patients about the risks of medical research.

tor's best guess?

Federal health officials put that question to the public Wednesday, as they debate how strictly to regulate this type of research - a debate sparked by that study of premature babies that included Dagen Pratt of Kingwood, W.Va.

The tiniest preemies face serious risks, including death and disabilities.

Oxygen has been a mainstay of treating them, but doctors didn't know just how much to use. Too much causes a kind of blindness called retinopathy of prematurity. Too little can cause neurologic damage, even death. So

hospitals used a range of oxygen, with some doctors opting for the high end and some for the low.

The Support study, conducted between 2005 and 2009, aimed to settle which end of that range was the best dose. It randomly assigned about 1,300 preemies at 23 hospitals to a lower or higher oxygen dose. To researchers' surprise, slightly more babies who got the lower dose died, a finding that has led to new standards for the care of preemies.

The problem: A government watchdog agency last spring ruled that researchers violated federal regulations that required them to spell out the risks of the study for parents. Nowhere in the consent forms that parents had to sign was death mentioned.

"This was a very, very important study to do," Dr. Jerry Menikoff, head of the Office for Human Research Protections, stressed Wednesday. "All we were

asking for," he added, "is a couple of sentences to say there were risks."

He agreed with consumer advocates that a similar study in New Zealand phrased the issue more appropriately, saying the question is whether the lower dose "is safe and effective in reducing serious vision and lung problems without increasing mortality or neurodevelopmental disability."

But critics, including the head of the National Institutes of Health, argued that back in 2005, doctors didn't think the lower dose really posed a survival risk - the question was more about which dose did a good-enough job at saving their vision.

In fact, preemies who didn't enroll in the study - and got whatever range of oxygen their doctors deemed best - turned out to have a higher risk of death, said NIH Deputy Director Kathy Hudson.

Dr. John Lantos, a bioethicist at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., knows that firsthand. His twin grandsons were born premature but weren't given an opportunity to enroll in the Support study. One died soon after birth. The other today is thriving but suffered severe retinopathy and has poor vision.

"Nonvalidated therapy is often more dangerous than careful research,"

Lantos said, adding that the consent forms should make that clear as well. "Doctors just hate to say they don't know something. When they do say it, we should listen."

While the experts debated how to explain research risks, two families who traveled to Washington for the unusual meeting outlined a bigger hurdle: Reeling from the stress of having a vulnerable preemie, they simply didn't understand that they were participating in an experiment.

They still haven't been told what dose of oxygen their children received, and it's impossible to say whether lingering health problems are a consequence of the study or of being extremely premature. Yet, they now wish they hadn't participated.

"I unknowingly placed my son in harm's way," said Sharissa Cook of Attalla, Ala., who wonders if vision problems experienced by her 6-year-old, Dreshan Collins, were caused by the study or from weighing less than 2 pounds at birth. "The only thing a mother wants is for her baby to be well."

Dagen's mother, Carrie Pratt, was more blunt with reporters: "Why is omitting information not considered lying?" she said. "We were told they would give her the best care every day." □

Feds study humpback whale endangered list removal

By **AUDREY McAVOY**

HONOLULU (AP) — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is launching a review of whether it should take North Pacific humpback whales off the endangered species list.

NOAA Fisheries is responding to a petition filed by a group of Hawaii fishermen saying the whale should no longer be classified as endangered because its population has steadily grown since the international community banned

commercial whaling nearly 50 years ago.

The agency said in a Federal Register notice this week the petition presents substantial scientific and commercial information indicating a delisting may be warranted. It will study the issue for the next year.

The Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition Inc. filed its petition in April. There are more than 21,000 humpback whales in the North Pacific, compared with about 1,400 in the mid-1960s. □

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CHRIS TALBOTT

AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Put the members of Alabama in the same room together and very quickly the jokes start and the laughs roll. Randy Owen, Jeff Cook and Teddy Gentry are back together, out on tour playing to thousands every night and releasing a new album of duets this week called "Alabama & Friends." And after more than four decades, they feel dusted with good fortune. "How could I not be having the time of my life?" bassist Gentry asks. "I'm sitting here with two cancer survivors. I could be here without one of these guys if it went one way instead of another. We feel like we're blessed to be doing this."

There was a time when Alabama was on top of the country music world, winning all the major awards, writing the most popular

songs and changing the way country music sounded for good.

The group makes its return as country reaps the benefits of the doors they kicked open back in the late 1970s and '80s when they helped move the genre from the state fair and community center circuit into a local arena near you.

"We brought a lot of rock principles as far as live shows to the country music arena for the first time as far big sound systems, moving lights," Cook said. "We played hard even though we were playing country music. Looking back, we were renegades at the time — tennis shoes, T-shirts, long hair — it's no different than today."

Alabama, in fact, is counted as one of country's most beloved acts 15 years after its last hit single. Content to sit it out over much of the last decade, the band de-

cided to give it another go after coming back together to organize a benefit for tornado victims in their home state last year.

They may never have been accepted by the folks down on Music Row, but they're part of the bedrock for today's top stars. Guests on the album include Jason Aldean, Kenny Chesney and Luke Bryan. And for many, the band still defines country stardom. Bryan says that when he's onstage, he's aiming for the same reaction he remembers Alabama getting at its peak. "When I reference Randy Owen, I think of my mama," Bryan said. "When I was 5 (years old), my mother was a 35-year-old Southern woman, and every 35-year-old Southern woman, all they wanted to do was jump Randy Owen's bones. If I'm accomplishing that, that's a good thing. That's cool."



In this Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013 photo, Jeff Cook, Randy Owen and Teddy Gentry from the American country music band Alabama pose for a portrait in Nashville, Tenn. Alabama has launched a tour and released a new album this week, "Alabama & Friends," that features duets of the group's biggest hits with top country stars.

Associated Press

Owen and the boys still have the ability to get them stirred up. They made a swing through Florida a few weeks ago and were amazed by the response they got.

"I know that we had some

fans and still do," Owen said. "I wish you could have been in St. Augustine. Augustine was drifting on back to 1983, 1984. It was crazy. Couple of times we stopped and just let them sing." □

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Actor Nicolas Cage poses during the photo call for the movie 'Joe' at the 70th edition of the Venice Film Festival held from Aug. 28 through Sept. 7, in Venice, Italy, Friday, Aug. 30, 2013.

Associated Press

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Nicolas Cage is once again playing a hard-drinker in his latest film, "Joe," premiering in competition at the Venice Film Festival, but his

approach to the role has evolved since his Oscar-winning performance in "Leaving Las Vegas."

For the 1995 role of suicidal alcoholic Ben Sanderson, Cage said he was "exploring all ways of finding

the honesty of the performance. And if that meant drinking, and videotaping myself drinking, and get ideas about that, I was going to do that."

But that was another time. "I was completely not do-

Nicolas Cage: 'Joe' among most memorable roles

ing anything and hadn't done anything for a while" when he played a pain killer-addicted detective in Werner Herzog's 2009 "The Bad Lieutenant," which premiered in Venice. "It was more a sensory recall of the past," he said, "and trying to find what those feelings might have been like. And I was happy with those results."

For the title role in "Joe," the 49-year-old actor said he focused on finding the truth in the performance. "Even though we weren't drinking, it was all about finding our way to the truth of Joe. If I was going to spin myself in circles, that is what I was going to do," he said.

In the film, Cage plays a hard-drinking ex-con whose struggle to maintain control of his life is undermined by his instincts to protect a teen, portrayed by Tye Sheridan, from his al-

coholic father. Green, the director, called it a tale of redemption.

"The movie is about whatever you want it to be about," Cage said. "If it is about a social crisis, that's perfectly a good thing to have it be about. For me, it was just about trying to make the character come to life."

He called "Joe" "one of the most memorable" films he has worked on in his nearly 35-year career.

The actor said he has no intention to retire any time soon.

"Film performance is a part of me," Cage said. "That is not to say I don't have fantasies of living a life of contemplation and sitting in the sun, but I can't just sit by the pool with a Mai Tai. I need to work."

"Joe" is among 20 films vying for the coveted Golden Lion, to be awarded in Venice on Sept. 7. □

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Less Bully, More Pulpit



MAUREEN DOWD

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WASHINGTON - As far as inappropriate and nasty career moves go, Miley Cyrus has Chris Christie beat.

She did a raunchy twerk, while he was a rude twerp.

But Christie's latest flash of a mean streak served as a reminder after a long period of glowing post-Sandy publicity for "The Boss," as the New Jersey governor was hailed on the cover of Time, giving him the ultimate compliment of sharing a nickname with his idol.

Republicans who fear that their party has been hijacked by crazies, nihilists, conspiracy theorists and misogynists are turning their lonely eyes to Christie for 2016, believing him to be the not-as-heavy heavyweight who can save the party and fend off the Clinton restoration.

As Politico reported, the former prosecutor made his case to Republican leaders at the party's summer meeting in Boston for how to win in 2016, presumably with a Jersey boy at the helm.

"We are not a debating society," he said. "We are a political operation that needs to win."

His brio impressed many GOP honchos who had been skeptical of his conservatism and Jersey Shore bromance with President Barack Obama.

"I'm in this business to win," said Christie, who is cruising to re-election. "I don't know why you're in it."

He continued: "I think that we have some folks that believe that our job is to be college professors. Now college professors are fine, I guess. You know, college professors basically spout out ideas that nobody ever does anything about. For our ideas to matter, we have to win, because if we don't win we don't govern. And if we don't govern, all we do is shout into the wind."

But if Christie wants to be president, he may have to keep his own shouting in check. Americans want authenticity, which the governor has, and they like results, which the governor gets. But voters also like to elect nice guys, not belittling blowhards.

Christie's tacky and out-of-proportion lambasting of a New York Daily News sports reporter won't get him into trouble. Everybody loves a good reporter flogging. But it was an early warning that while Christie has taken dramatic moves to solve his weight problem, he has not yet solved his temperament problem.

He clearly has not taken a lesson from his pal Obama that you

can be an obsessive sports fan and still maintain class. The governor unleashed his torrent on a New York radio show Monday morning, trashing Jets reporter Manish Mehta for his criticism of New York Jets coach Rex Ryan, Christie's friend, who shared his own lap-band experience with the governor before Christie had the procedure.

Mehta had repeatedly questioned Ryan during the post-game news conference about the coach's decision to play Mark Sanchez in the fourth quarter of a preseason game that he considered "meaningless." Sanchez suffered a shoulder injury that, Mehta concluded, "clouds the Jets' quarterback situation." Christie, who is actually a Dallas Cowboys fan, ranted that Mehta was an "idiot," a "dope" and a "self-consumed, underpaid reporter." He added that they shouldn't be talking about the reporter "who, by the way, I couldn't pick out of a lineup and no Jets fan gives a damn about Manish Mehta."

The News retaliated with a front-page headline, "Who you calling an idiot, fatso!"; unflattering Christie pictures; and a Mike Lupica column, "Attack of the Blob: Pick On Someone Your Own Size," with a subhead, "Manish vs. the Meatball."

Noting correctly that the biggest name in the Republican Party had made himself look "small," Lupica mused, "Who knows? Maybe there is a stronger bond than we knew of between Christie and Ryan because they both have undergone lap-band surgery the past couple of years. Maybe it's some kind of Lap-Band of Brothers deal."

Dan Balz, the great Washington Post political reporter, reveals in his new best seller, "Collision 2012," that Henry Kissinger, David Koch and other wealthy Republicans tried to woo Christie into the 2012 race and that the self-regarding governor (who almost forgot to mention Mitt Romney in his nominating speech for Romney), "savored every moment."

I asked Balz if Christie could survive the rigors of four town halls a day in Iowa and New Hampshire without getting tripped up by his mouthy East Coast moxie and his tendency to get very personal, very fast.

"He's got a big personality; it's a combative personality," Balz replied.

"That's one of the reasons people were drawn to him last time around, a guy who would take on Obama in a way Romney seemingly wasn't doing.

"There are times when it has worked terrifically for him, and there are moments when it threatens to go over the top. It's an open question: If you're running for president, can you do that very often and hope to be successful?"

"You can never predict what people are going to be like on the trail," Balz concluded. "Witness Rick Perry." □



Reinforce A Norm In Syria



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

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It looks as if we'll be firing Tomahawk cruise missiles at Syria in the coming days, and critics are raising legitimate concerns:

President Bashar Assad may escalate. Hezbollah may retaliate against Western targets. Our missiles may kill civilians. We'll own a civil war in a broken country. We'll be distracted from nation building at home. A couple of days of missile strikes will offer merely a slap on the wrist that advertises our impotence.

There's some truth to all that, but we also need to acknowledge something fundamental: President Barack Obama's policy toward Syria has failed, and it's time to try a tougher approach. Obama reportedly rejected a proposal from Hillary Clinton and David Petraeus to arm rebels in Syria, because he feared getting dragged into the conflict. Now we're getting dragged in anyway, and everything we worried about has come to pass:

The war has spread and destabilized Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey. The hard-line Nusra Front rebels have gained strength, partly because we have spurned moderates. The Syrian army has won ground. Prolonged war has deepened sectarian hatreds that will make it harder than ever to put Syria back together.

More than 100,000 Syrians have been killed. At the rate the killings have accelerated, Syria could even approach a Rwanda-size

death toll by the time Obama steps down.

I tend to be wary of the military toolbox, and I strongly opposed the Iraq war and the Afghan "surge." But in conjunction with diplomacy, military force can save lives. We saw that in Bosnia and Kosovo under Bill Clinton (who appears to favor a more forceful U.S. approach in Syria), and we saw that just this year in Mali.

The problem is that overcommitments in Afghanistan and Iraq have left us with society-wide PTSD, so that we're wary of engaging in Syria at all. Obama's passivity is easy to understand: Only one-fifth of the U.S. public favors arming rebels.

But when I was last in Syria, in November, I met a grandma who had already lost her husband, her son and her daughter-in-law to the Assad regime. She was living in her fifth home that year, a leaky tent, wondering who would die next, and like everyone was desperate for international support. "We ask for God's help in ending this, and Obama's," she said.

What do we tell her? That we don't have the stomach to help her? That we'd rather wait until all her grandkids have died and the death toll has reached hundreds of thousands and embarrassed us to take firmer action? Granted, there's a legitimate question about whether a day or two of missile strikes against Syria (seemingly the most likely scenario) will deter Assad from further use of chemical weapons. We can't be sure, but to me that seems plausible.

Chemical weapons are of only marginal use, simply one more way to terrorize and demoralize opponents. Assad has carefully calibrated his actions over the last few years, testing the domestic and international response before escalating.

At first he merely arrested protesters. Then his forces began

firing on them. Next his soldiers swept hostile neighborhoods. Then the Syrian army began firing rockets and mortars at rebel positions. Assad moved on to indiscriminate bombing. Then his army apparently used chemical weapons in small attacks. Finally, his army appears to have undertaken a major assault with nerve gas.

We've been the frog in the beaker.

To me there's some hope that destroying military aircraft or intelligence headquarters can persuade Assad that chemical weapons are not worth the cost and that he is better off employing more banal ways to slaughter his people. That's unsatisfying but would still be a useful message to other leaders. It would reinforce the international norm against weapons of mass destruction.

Are we making too much of chemical weapons? Probably less than 1 percent of those killed in Syria have died of nerve gas attacks. In Syria, a principal weapon of mass destruction has been the AK-47.

Yet there is value in bolstering international norms against egregious behavior like genocide or the use of chemical weapons. Since Obama established a "red line" about chemical weapons use, his credibility has been at stake: He can't just whimper and back down.

Look, Syria is going to be a mess, whatever we do. The optimal window to intervene by supporting moderate rebels to achieve a quick end to the war may have closed. But if the coming clash gives us a chance to do more to arm certain rebel groups or share intelligence with them, that would still be worthwhile - all while backing the idea of a negotiated settlement.

For all the risks of hypocrisy and ineffectiveness, it's better to stand up inconsistently to some atrocities than to acquiesce consistently in them all. □

SUMMER'S LAST CALL

MATT HABER

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There was a small, sharp bite in the air on the East End of Long Island this past Saturday night, the second to last of the season. It may not have been cold enough to stay inside one's summer share with a fire and some Netflix, but the hint of autumn provided an easy excuse to get a little closer to a stranger (or two) for some body heat.

In a little more than a week, the old back-to-school feeling will settle in. No more overnight bags by the desk Friday; no more hangover bacon-egg-and-cheese on a roll Monday. After Labor Day, Montauk will cease to be meatpacking district east (way east) and return to being the peaceful, shambling refuge from city life that it's been for generations.

But not this night.

As throngs of well-dressed (and better-lubricated) revelers made their way down Edgemere Road to join the crowd inside the Surf Lodge, the sounds of laughter and the intermittent flashes of smartphones pierced the starry night. In a nod to Montauk's less-

pretentious night life, the motel and club does not have a velvet rope, but it does have a chain separating its parking lot from the street, where rows of taxis were ready to assist in the migratory patterns of this species of nocturnal animal. It was 10 p.m., and the night was just starting. "It's not our favorite night," said Alan Rish, the Surf Lodge's public relations manager. "It's the crazy night everywhere. Every other day, it's just super mellow."

"Saturday's crazy, you know?" he added.

Inside, Niko Scott, a 26-year-old real estate agent from Manhattan, was drinking rosé and explaining how the environment influences his choice of beverage: "If I'm in Brooklyn, I'll take a Brooklyn Lager. If I'm at Surf Lodge, I'll drink some rosé. That's what it is."

What's a Saturday night like in Montauk, a visitor asked Scott.

"I think it's not like a night out in Barcelona or something where you're out all night long until the sun rises," Scott said. "It's more of a mature environment. For the people that can



Revelers at the Sloppy Tuna, a two-story bar in Montauk, N.Y. As the sun sets on the days of carefree days and boozy nights, Hamptons revelers pursue a final chance at 'Montauk love.'

(Yana Paskova/The New York Times)

obviously afford to do it, it's more mature people that can come out here."

All around Scott, 20- and 30-somethings, and a smattering of "don't ask"-somethings, stood around shouting over the hits of the '80s. Blondie demanded that they call her; the Pointer Sisters implored everyone to jump; and New Order asked, "How does it feel, to treat me like you do?" By the time the DJ cued up Toni Basil on his MacBook, and she told everyone how fine she thought Mickey is,

one got the feeling of being at a very expensive bar mitzvah in 1985.

Standing by a screen projecting an old surfing movie, Santino LoConte, 23, a shoe company executive, was hanging out with his brother Peter, 22. Both are from New York, and it was their first time in Montauk.

"I love it," Santino said. "It feels like New York. I've been down to the Jersey Shore a couple of times, and it's nothing like that at all. It's a lot more laid back, a lot more chill."

He added: "The girls are nice. We met a couple last night. It went well." At that, the brothers laughed conspiratorially.

Outside, where the music was less overwhelming and you could smoke, three friends were asked about the possibility of finding love in Montauk during the summer.

"I've heard the phrase 'Montauk love' a few times," said Diana Aras, 31, who works in finance.

"I think it's definitely like summer love," her friend Chris Blas added.

"I don't think you should come out here looking for love," said Aras, who said this was her third summer in Montauk. "You should come out here looking to have a fun time."

About a mile stumble from the Surf Lodge sits the Sloppy Tuna, whose slogan is "Get Your Sloppy On." The two-story bar was holding a Fire and Ice party Saturday night, and patrons were invited to don either devil's ears or a feathery halo. Some cleverly split the difference and wore both. It was hard to tell if there were more angels or devils in attendance, but as Mötley Crüe's "Shout at the Devil" blasted from the DJ booth, it was easy to assume. It was also as crowded as hell.

Michael Wolf, 25, who works in finance, stood on a balcony overlooking the ocean. □



From left: Lian Price, Sugi Kim, Angela Johnson, and Charu Patterson, chat at the Surf Lodge in Montauk, N.Y.

(Yana Paskova/The New York Times)